

# New Mission News

COMFORTING THE AFFLICTED AND AFFLICTING THE COMFORTABLE SINCE 1980 • MAY 1999



## Sweeping ban on lofts imposed

Planning Commission finally puts the brakes on live/work condos

By Judy West

After two years of heated debate over the misuse of San Francisco's Artist Live/Work Ordinance to create luxury loft housing in commercial zoning districts, the first real step in closing the loopholes was finally made on April 22. Under the threat of a City-wide moratorium on Live/Work development by Supervisor Sue Bierman, our Planning Commission imposed strict new zoning controls which prohibit any additional housing (live/work or otherwise) over most of the North East Mission Industrial Zone (NEMIZ) and remaining industrially zoned land in San Francisco. These new "Interim Zoning Controls" are serious land use changes compared to the toothless guidelines in place since last March of 1998.

Succumbing to political pressure brought primarily by the Coalition for Jobs, Arts and Housing, the Planning Commission finally decided to take responsibility for a solution rather than have the Board of Supervisors take matters into their own hands. With Interim Controls in place the Planning Department will now begin developing permanent new zoning legislation which will eventually need to be approved by the Board of Supervisors. Alice Barkley, an attorney representing the live/work developers' interests, cautioned the Commission dur-

ing public testimony saying, "Interim Controls have a history of becoming permanent." She also acknowledged the difficult situation they were in with District Elections coming up this fall and the threat of a moratorium by the Board of Supervisors.

This victory comes at a heavy cost for affordable housing activists. The action will now put a halt to much of the new housing stock being brought into San Francisco during a period of desperate housing shortages. Live/Work lofts have contributed about 20% of new housing created in San Francisco during the last few years according to reports published by City Planning in 1998. The majority of it has been designed, marketed and priced as upscale bachelor(ette) pads, instead of incubator business spaces (as they are legally defined in the codes). This has created an uproar among the artists, small business and lower income communities that were supposed to be the beneficiaries of these mixed commercial/residential units.

### A unanimous vote

The unanimous vote and rehearsed statements made by each of the Commissioners made it clear the decision had already been made before the seven hours of public testimony. Gerald Green, director of City Planning outlined the department's recommendation for the new Industrial

Continued on page 6



Photo by Bruce Dantzker

## Carnaval will dance down Mission Street on May 30

San Francisco's grandest festival celebrates 20 years of merriment and excitement

By Monica Conrady

Here in the Mission, the month of May begins and ends with a street party. It kicks off with Cinco de Mayo, held this year on May 2, and ends with a bang on May 30 with *Carnaval!* The Latin beat that simmers year round in the Mission comes to a full boil in May.

Carnaval San Francisco is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. It's come a long way since its modest beginnings all those years ago in Precita Park. Considering marriages and restaurants often don't make it past even the five-year mark, 20 years of anything is definitely something to celebrate.

Continued on page 16

**JOIN IN THE CELEBRATIONS OF MAY** SEE PAGES 10-21

# ROXIE Cinema

3117 16th St at Valencia, San Francisco, CA (415) 863-1067 www.roxie.com  
 Admission: \$6.50/ Sr/Child: \$3.5 Admission Discount Card: \$20. Bargain Matinee: \$4 first show Wed, Sat, Sun.

Sunday, May 9

## Audrey Hepburn's Birthday! Breakfast at Tiffany's

Truman Capote's novel about a country girl who becomes a fugitive, all girl was reworked somewhat to suit its beautiful star's image, and the result was one of Hollywood's most enduring romantic classics. Audrey even gets a chance to sing the film's Academy Award-winning song, *Moon River*. Also starring: George Peppard, Patricia Neal, Buddy Ebsen. Music by Henry Mancini. Directed by Blake Edwards. Color. 35mm. 115 mins. Prof. SUN at 3:25, 7:30



## Funny Face

A beautiful but naive bookstore clerk (Audrey) is chosen by a celebrated fashion photographer to be his perfect model and is whisked off to Paris! One of the great musical romances, featuring a top score by George and Ira Gershwin. Also starring Fred Astaire (whose character was based on Richard Avedon, whose photographs are seen in the film). Kay Thompson, Suzy Parker. Directed by Stanley Donen. Color. 35mm. 110 mins. 1957. SUN at 1:30, 5:30, 9:35

Friday, May 14  
Girl Gang

Ultra-insane "Z" exploitation shocker! See Girls shooting heroin! Gang bangs! Blatant acts of prostitution, blackmail, savagery and more! In a style reminiscent of Edward D. Wood, this shocking oddity packs more bizarre mayhem in little over an hour than most do in twice the time. Starring Timothy Farrell, Joanne Arnold. Directed by Robert Derteno. B&W. 35mm. 66 mins. 1954. FRI at 7:30



## Pin Down Girls

In the great tradition of *Dance Hall Racket* comes this notoriously cheap and sleazy exploitation film about the perils awaiting young women who fall into the "professional wrestling" racket! Words cannot describe the sheer unbelievable nature of this movie. Starring Timothy Farrell, et al. Directed by Robert Derteno. B&W. 35mm. 69 mins. 1953. FRI at 6:10, 10:10

Friday May 21 - Thursday May 27  
CHARLES MINGUS  
Triumph of the Underdog

When previewed last fall for Roxie audiences, *Triumph of the Underdog* proved to be an enormous success. So it is with great pride that we present its official premiere engagement for a full week. Although Mingus was an outcast in American society, he charted his own musical path and became an artist of unparalleled talent. He was an inspiring band leader, a master bassist and an important 20th century composer, whose skills reached far beyond jazz idioms. *Triumph of the Underdog* presents the many faces of this celebrated artist. Featuring an incredible array of musical performances by Eric Dolphy, Gerry Mulligan, Duke Ellington, Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, Bud Powell and many others. Directed by Don McGlynn. Color/B&W. Video. 78 mins. 1997. NIGHTLY at 6:00, 8:00, 10:00; SAT, SUN, WED at 2:00, 4:00



Friday, May 28 - Wednesday, June 2

## DIVORCE IRANIAN STYLE



In a small Tehran courtroom, the stories of three strong-willed women unfold as they use reason, charm, pleas for sympathy, anger, even a disarming wit to win what they each need—a divorce. *Divorce Iranian Style* is a unique window into the impassioned but very practical business of divorce—and marriage—in three Iranian women's lives. Jamileh, whose son saved her from the hand of an abusive husband, Ziba, an outspoken 16-year-old who proudly stands up to her 38-year-old husband and his family, and Maryam, remarried and desperate to regain custody of her two daughters. Directed by Kim Longinotto and Ziba Mir-Hosseini. Color. 16mm. 80 mins. 1998. UK. West Coast Theatrical Premiere! NIGHTLY at 6:00, 8:00, 10:00; SAT/SUN/WED MATS at 2:00, 4:00

Monday, May 10 - Friday, May 14  
Hollywood Esoterica  
Girls, Girls, Girls!

A five day windfall of femme-fired films from Hollywood's lower berth. From semi-obscure "B" mysteries to poverty row "Z" budget cult rarities, this is truly a festival of the forgotten that no true lover of the orcone should dare miss!

Monday, May 10  
Ladies Love Danger

A pretty amateur sleuth and her playwright boyfriend set out to solve a series of murders in their theatrical crowd. A deft and lively blend of comedy and mystery. Starring Mona Barrie, Gilbert Roland, Donald Cook, Adrienne Ames. Directed by H. Bruce Humberstone. B&W. 16mm. 69 mins. 1935. MDN at 2:15, 6:20, 10:15



## She's Dangerous

A beautiful undercover agent is framed by the gang she has infiltrated, but will anyone believe her? A rarely seen "B" thriller starring the moodily exotic Tala Birell. With Cesar Romero, Walter Pidgeon, Walter Brennan. Directed by Foster and Caruth. B&W. 16mm. 68 mins. 1937. MDN at 3:40, 7:45

## Big Town Girl

A young gal on the lam from her psycho husband winds up masquerading as the "Masked Countess," a French radio singing star. An unusual, fast-paced comedy drama with great tunes tossed in. Starring Claire Trevor, Donald Woods, Alan Dinehart, Alan Baxter. Directed by Alfed Werker. B&W. 16mm. 70 mins. 1936. MDN at 5:00, 9:05

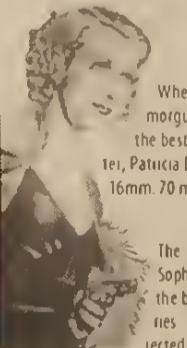
Tuesday, May 11  
Women in the Night

One of the strangest and rarest 40s "B" films, this lurid exploitation shocker tells the grim story of women captured by the Nazis and forced to serve as "hostesses" at the Shanghai Officer's Club. Photographed by the legendary cinematographer Eugen Shufan, the film has a look not often associated with obscurity. Starring Tala Birell, Virginia Christine, Philip Ahn. Directed by William Rowland. B&W. 16mm. 90 mins. 1948. TUE at 8:00



## Allotment Wives

Kay Francis stars as a socialite who secretly heads a nasty gang of women who prey on unsuspecting servicemen. Violence, blackmail and murder highlight this sordid tale of shame! Co-starring Paul Kelly, Otto Kruger, Gertrude Michael. Directed by William Nigh. B&W. 16mm. 83 mins. 1945. TUE at 6:15, 9:40



Wednesday, May 12  
Lady in the Morgue

When the corpse of a beautiful young girl is stolen from the city morgue, all hell breaks loose in what many aficionados cite as one of the best "B" mysteries ever! Fast-paced excitement! Starring Preston Foster, Patricia Ellis, Frank Jenks, Barbara Pepper. Directed by Otis Garrett. B&W. 16mm. 70 mins. 1938. WED at 3:40, 7:30

## The Notorious Sophie Lang

The Catholic Church condemned the amoral romps of jewel thief Sophie who plays off her adversaries and rivals against the cops to score the biggest heist of her career! The first and best of the Sophie Lang series. Starring Gertrude Michael, Paul Cavanagh, Alison Skipworth. Directed by Ralph Murphy. B&W. 16mm. 65 mins. 1934. WED at 5:00, 8:50

## Black Doll

This spooky "B" mystery campiest is played pretty much for laughs as the dreaded "Black Doll Curse" descends on a mysterious mansion full of guests! Dddly weird, indeed. Starring Donald Woods, Nan Grey, Edgar Kennedy. Directed by Otis Garrett. B&W. 16mm. 65 mins. 1937. WED at 2:20, 6:15, 10:00

Thursday, May 13  
Queen Bee

Joan Crawford has a field day as the tyrannical matriarch of a Southern family with a neurotic compulsion to control the lives of all around her. One of Joan's lesser known films from the 50s, a floridly festering melodrama of nearly surreal proportions. Also starring Barry Sullivan, Betsy Palmer, John Ireland, Fay Wray. Written and directed by Ranald MacDougall. B&W. 35mm. 95 mins. 1955. THUR at 8:00

## Women's Prison

The incendiary Ida Lupino stars as the vicious warden riding roughshod over her inmates in this luridly bizarre prison melodrama. The absolutely unbelievable supporting cast—a veritable Who's Who of Hollywood "B" babes—includes Jan Sterling, Cleo Moore, Audrey Totter, Phyllis Thaxter, Mae Clarke, Gertrude Michael and Juanita Moore! Dyno-mite! Directed by Lewis Seiler. B&W. 16mm. 80 mins. 1955. THUR at 6:15, 9:45



## Teenage Doll

One of the all-time great girl gang classics, the fun really begins to fly when rival debs duke it out on the city's mean streets. With June Kenny, Fay Spain, Richard Devon. Directed by Roger Corman. B&W. 35mm. 68 mins. 1957. FRI at 8:50  
Joan Crawford has a field day as the tyrannical matriarch of a Southern family with a neurotic compulsion to control the lives of all around her. One of Joan's lesser known films from the '50s, a floridly festering melodrama of nearly surreal proportions. Also starring Barry Sullivan, Betsy Palmer, John Ireland, Fay Wray. Written and directed by Ranald MacDougall. B&W. 35mm. 95 mins. 1955. THUR at 8:00

Saturday, May 15

## Two of legendary action director John Woo's most explosive mego hits on one great double bill! Face/Off



A top federal agent agrees to have the face of a psychotic terrorist grafted onto his own in order to trap him. Explosive action! Starring John Travolta and Nicholas Cage. Directed by John Woo. Color. 35mm. 138 mins. 1997. USA. SAT at 2:30, 7:30



## Hard Boiled

A hard-bitten Hong Kong cop teams up with a mysterious hit man in order to stop a vicious gang of arms dealers. Nonstop fireworks! Starring Chow Yun-Fat, Tony Leung. Directed by John Woo. Color. 35mm. 126 mins. 1992. HONG KONG. SAT at 5:00, 9:55

Sunday, May 16  
MISHIMA



A rare one-day revival of the astonishing film that examines the life of the great Japanese author, Yukio Mishima, and ends with his death by means of a ritual suicide. "In Mishima, martyrdom seems the ultimate expression of narcissism. Yet the film's struggle with these issues is definitely tragic, and is far more exciting than any contemporary action movie because so much—a life—is at stake." —Bob Stephens, *San Francisco Examiner*. Starring Ken Ogata, Toshiyuki Nagashima. Musical score by Philip Glass. Directed by Paul Schrader. Color/B&W. 35mm. 120 mins. 1985. SUN at 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

Monday, May 17 - Thursday, May 20  
THE LEGACY: Murder & Media,  
Politics & Prison



This controversial new documentary vividly shows how the mandatory sentencing law known as "Three Strikes, You're Out" was quickly passed into legislation with very little opposition, and how its costly and devastating ramifications are about to resonate across the nation. Unfolding like a drama, the film focuses on two fathers who have suffered through the most horrible of crimes: their children were murdered. These fathers are Mike Reynolds, the driving force behind the initiative, and Mark Klaas, who came on board and galvanized public support. *The Legacy* shows the efficiency and determination of the political forces behind the bill and charts the way Mark Klaas was transformed from proponent to opponent. Produced and directed by Michael J. Moore. Color. 16mm. 76 mins. 1999. U.S. Theatrical Premiere! NIGHTLY at 6:00, 8:00, 10:00, ADDITIONAL 2:00 & 4:00 SHOWS on WED

## COMING IN JUNE

Thursday, June 3  
Brain Womb II

Friday, June 4 - Wednesday, June 9  
Chappaqua  
Directed by Conrad Rooks.

Thursday, June 10  
Murder at the Vanities &  
No Time For Love  
Directed by Mitchell Leisen

Friday, June 11 - Thursday, June 17  
My Dinner With Andre  
Directed by Louis Malle.

Friday, June 18 - Saturday, June 26  
Lesbian & Gay Film Festival

Sunday, June 27 - Tuesday, June 29  
Mavericks

Wednesday & Thursday, June 30 & July 1  
The Trial  
Directed by Orson Welles

# Letters to the Editor

## Police horse pucky

Editor,  
Regarding Andy Solow's "Missing cop case revisited" in your April edition:

Although I, like my fellow officers in the San Francisco Police Department, share Mr. Solow's concern regarding full staffing of the PD in conformance with Prop D, I feel that Mr. Solow's premise was seriously compromised by the common journalistic practice of playing "fast and loose" with the facts. I am referring to Mr. Solow's use of my unit, the SFPD Mounted Unit, as an example of managerial inefficiency. Mr. Solow states that due to a budgetary shortfall, full time sworn police officers are utilized to "shovel horse pucky," and that no money was budgeted to hire enough "stable boys" to do the job.

The facts are as follows: My unit is currently budgeted and staffed by four (4) full-time civil service stable attendants. These are professionals who are responsible for numerous stable duties, as well as the care and grooming of our seventeen police horses. Although their pay is substantially lower than our sworn officers, their services to the mounted unit are invaluable (I am sure that they would rattle at the use of the pejorative "stable boy"). Four stable attendants is sufficient staffing to allow our sworn police officers to assume their primary duty, which is to provide patrol coverage as well as to represent the SFPD at numerous community and ceremonial events. Sworn officers are only rarely utilized for stable duties when stable attendants are either ill, or on vacation.

I would recommend that before Mr. Solow levels his next "Mission Broadside," that he verify the information provided him by his "high level sources." Failure to do so may relegate his high level information to a status less worth than the "horse pucky" being swept up in my stable.

Sincerely, Lt. Michael Kernmitt  
Commanding Officer San Francisco  
Police Mounted Unit

## Satan, surely you jest

Editor,  
Being a native San Franciscan, I decided to take Silicon's rant as merely (typical) political satire. Poking fun at, or fanning the fire of the re-gentrification controversy that exists in the historic Mission district, as well as the area known as south of Market, between the capitalist developers and the working class residents of this noble, cosmopolitan and progressive city. Surely a real person couldn't be dishing this sort of xenophobic rhetoric in one of our fine neighborhood journals?

Blessed be for the freedom of speech and press, but this persona, Silicon, certainly comes across as clueless of where he is. He almost sounds like he's from beyond the pale and is merely suffering from culture shock, or at least some sort of cowardly Middle Age conquistador who can't bare to focus his eyes upon that which casts the dancing shadows on the walls of his cave.

Clue #1: The unsanctioned "white-washing" of the Lilli Ann mural was an act

of theft and vandalism, and should be dealt with accordingly. The idea of someone covering over, otherwise removing, or destroying images created by a places' native people reminds me too much of all the past tyrannical sweeps and destruction of many armies, from the ancient Romans to the Nazis. Lets make sure this doesn't happen in this Mecca for pioneering spirits who come here in search of freedom; to live a peaceful life without condemnation or limitation to quality of life through the arts and self expression.

Clue #2: Bicycles don't pollute or cause that nasty traffic congestion we find in the business areas. (And surely an adult can find more articulate words to describe what he means by "scummy" bike riders?)

Clue #3: Murals go a long way to brighten up our urban streets, graffiti artists are merely undirected artists who are as important to our art development as any particular hub of the art world. Who can say what art is? Help the young and old alike develop art skills to sublimate the local talent.

Clue #4: Keep the city unique. Tourists come here to see the uniqueness of it, support locally owned businesses and trust in their judgement for neighborhood aesthetic representation.

San Francisco is a special place, maybe not for everyone, but we like to welcome anyone to come, but please act civil in our city.

Musetta Lavezzo

## You call this Satanism?

Editor,  
You son of a glitch, you won't get away with this (ARTISTS EXPLOIT THE MISSION, NMN April '99).

Of course it's true, as you suggest, that our cynical manipulation of the North Mission community has catapulted us to vast wealth and celebrity. And you might well have added that we have driven our elderly landlord to near-destitution through the callous use of Soviet-style rent control ordinances. Moreover, what little rent we do pay comes straight out of the pockets of hard working programmers and geneticists. All this, thanks to our friends in City Hall who rubber-stamp our six-figure grant applications (despite the fact that we never account for the money and have been submitting the same application package since 1993).

The strange thing, though, Mr. Satan, is that even as you expose our little racket, you seem to still be buying into the myth of the helpless, unworldly artist. This is a fatal error. You are pissing in the wrong alley, boy. We have connections with ruthless New York City art dealers, to say nothing of the Queer/ Feminist Mafia that secretly controls *The Art World* (Q/FMTSCTAW). You are looking to get your ass formatted. Your connection isn't fast enough to get you out from under the shitstorm that's headed your way.

Sincerely yours, Aaron Noble,  
CEO, Clanion Alley Mural Corporation

PS Do you mind if we use your description, "a veritable skull at the feast", in our upcoming ad campaign?

Buy Mom a gift at the  
**Fair Oaks Neighbors**  
**24<sup>th</sup> Annual Garage Sale!**  
5 blocks on Fair Oaks (21<sup>st</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> St., Guerrero/Dolores.)  
Please no professionals.  
May 8-9am to 4pm  
Rain date May 15

## American Classics

Handmade, solid hardwood furniture from our workshop in Maine.

**HOME Remedies**

1026 Valencia St.  
at 21st.  
415/826-2026

[www.bradcochair.com](http://www.bradcochair.com)  
[www.mainecottage.com](http://www.mainecottage.com)

WWW.VALENCIASTREETMUSCLE.COM

## \*Two Weeks Free

(\$50 value)

**Try Out SF's Newest Independent Gym!**

- Friendly Knowledgeable Staff
- Certified Personal Training
- Independent Trainers Welcome

**VALANCIA ST**  
**MUSCLE**  
**AND FITNESS CENTER**

- Newly Remodeled
- Brand New Equipment
- Locally Owned & Operated

**333 VALENCIA STREET AT 14TH STREET**  
**415.626.8360**

\* With this coupon. Local new visitors only. One pass per person per year. Offer may be withdrawn at anytime.  
**EXPIRES 5-21-99**

# Get out or Ellis!

Success of tenant removal tactic is based on intimidation not the law

by Ted Gulliksen

There's been a lot of hysteria recently about Ellis Act evictions. The Ellis Act says a tenant can be evicted if the landlord wants to withdraw his rental units from the market, or go out of business in other words. The bad news about Ellis evictions is that they've increased about 800% in the last six months. The good news is that this means only about 20 evictions a month - hardly an epidemic when compared to the 180 or so owner move in evictions there were every month before last year's Proposition G ended most Owner Move In Evictions abuses. OMI evictions are now down to about 60 a month.

When Prop G passed last year, tenant activists were wary that the Ellis evictions would increase, and some feared there would simply be a wholesale switch over to Ellis. But cutting OMI evictions by 120 a month and seeing Ellis evictions increase by 20 a month is a net gain of 100 homes saved every month - so far, so good. But the 800% increase is scary and worth watching.

## Ellis-ed after 40 years?

Which is why about 30 tenants got together in April and marched to two Ellis eviction sites to protest landlords evicting all their tenants via the Ellis Act. In both cases, the evictions were strikingly similar to the old OMI evictions. The victims are an 83-year old woman with 40 years of tenancy; a disabled tenant with 30 years of tenancy, and two Latino families with 20 year and 30 year tenancies. Very similar to the pre-Prop G days, when long-term tenants with affordable rents were targeted for eviction and when senior and disabled tenants made up the bulk of those evictions. Lola McKay, for example, has lived in her home for over forty years. She can not believe that the courts would allow her to be evicted from her home of four decades, especially when she has absolutely nowhere else to go.

And what's also scary about Ellis is that she will be evicted if her landlord is serious about invoking the Ellis Act to evict. The landlord doesn't have to say what he or she wants to do with the units, or justify their reason for going out of business. Tenants have few defenses to an Ellis eviction; if the landlord's serious about invoking the Ellis Act, the tenant will probably lose.

## A dangerous gambit.

But, invoking Ellis is a serious step. A landlord may be able to easily evict the tenants, but at what cost? Once the tenants are gone, the landlord is prohibited from ever re-renting the apartment at a rent greater than what the evicted tenant was paying, and this must be recorded on the deed so it's binding on all future owners - forever. And if the landlord wants to convert the apartment into a tenancy-in-common condo-type ownership unit, they must now receive a permit from the Planning Department to do this - and Planning can not give these permits if there will be an "adverse impact" on the supply of rental housing. It is expected that Planning will issue few permits for conversions of buildings emptied via the Ellis Act.

So why would a landlord do an Ellis eviction if after evicting tenants their only real use of the building seems to be to leave it vacant and empty?

Many landlords, of course, aren't looking beyond their immediate goal of evicting a tenant with low rent. They are

evicting, simply assuming that the city will be as lax in its enforcement of Ellis evictions as it was with OMI evictions and they believe they will be able to re-rent at a higher rate soon. Other landlords are using Ellis to convert apartments into tenancy-in-common condos despite the new legislation requiring permits for such conversions (they'll make their money and let the buyers of the TIC units deal with the problem of permits).

But, most interestingly, what has appeared to develop as the main landlord scam is exploitation of a sort-of "Ellis hysteria." The mainstream media, for example, has run more articles on Ellis evictions in the last few months than it ran on OMI evictions in the last ten years. These articles have termed Ellis the "landlord's ultimate weapon" and called Ellis evictions unstoppable and increasing astronomically. These articles point out the 800% growth without saying this means about 15-20 a month, or they point out how few defenses tenants have to fight with, without pointing out how an Ellis eviction leaves a landlord with essentially an empty building.

Working on this hysteria, landlords have now found they can get tenants out by invoking the Ellis word, threatening an Ellis eviction and maybe even just starting the process - doing everything short of a complete Ellis eviction which would kick in the re-rental restrictions. So landlords verbally threaten with the Ellis Act - and the tenant moves out, fearing they'll never be able to fight it. Or landlords send tenants a "notice of intent to withdraw units" - not an actual eviction notice, and tenants move out based on that.

In other cases, landlords send the actual Ellis eviction notice, causing some or all of the tenants move out. The landlords then take the position that an Ellis eviction notice alone does not require them to file deed restrictions, or kick in the limitations on re-rentals and that if tenants move out prior to the expiration of the notice, they can re-rent the apartments. Most Landlords get tenants to sign an agreement to this effect.

In another eviction case in the Mission, for example, Lynch Associates (which did numerous OMI evictions) issued Ellis evictions to four tenants at one building. Two tenants left; two stayed and fought. Lynch then withdrew the evictions and will re-rent the two now-vacant units.

These threatened and quasi-Ellis evictions have perhaps become the biggest Ellis threat at this point and counselors at the Tenants Union and St. Peter's Housing Committee are warning tenants to beware of the landlords' Ellis bluffs and fight back.

## New Mission News

415-695-8702  
Fax: 695-2838



## IBARRA BROTHERS PRINTING

TYPESetting • DESIGN • PRINTING

Invoices • Flyers • Logos  
Letterheads • Envelopes  
• Postcards • Magazines • Newsletters • Labels  
Stamps • Business Cards • Presentation Folders

1009 Valencia (at 21st)  
Ph: 826-6700 Fx: 826-6701



## Giant Color Banners & Posters

up to 3ft x 12ft



Some people have taken the live/work war into the streets. Members of the Mission Yuppie Eradication Project (MYEP) expressed their political sentiments on the walls of these lofts near 21st and Hamison last month. Photo by Nestor Mahkno, who says he's not necessarily, connected with this action or any past or future anti-gentrification graffiti.

## Lofts Continued from page 1

Protection Zones over what was described as a compromise area including most of the NEMIZ and SOMA and all of the Bayshore and Bayview industrial areas. The new controls allow about 1/3 of SOMA and some of the Central Waterfront along 3rd Street to continue with limited housing development. All projects with applications already submitted and under review will remain open for consideration under the guidelines imposed last March 1998. Peripheral parcels will require approval by the Commission and be subject to affordability requirements from which live/work units have been exempt. Demolition of existing industrial space will also require Commission review and authorization.

Commissioner Hector Chinchilla requested the department begin drafting the reclassification of live/work as residential instead of commercial so that affordability requirements could be imposed in the future. He also requested his staff to find ways to get greater housing density into existing residential neighborhoods that have historically been NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) havens. If the projected demand for 20,000 new housing units in San Francisco (as reported by the Association for Bay Area Governments) will need to be met in our existing residential districts, the impact of these zoning changes will reach deep into the rest of the City.

Commissioner Dennis Antenore expressed surprise at how the seven-member commission could have reached a consensus after such contentious debates for so many months. Chinchilla's comments to the press after the hearing described the move as "a balanced middle-ground which will encourage 8,000 new housing units in the eastern part of the City." But comments by James Nunemacker of Vanguard Properties were echoed by most of the real estate professionals who testified; "these controls will be a disaster for San Francisco residents as they will further limit supply and increase the already skyrocketing cost of housing."

## Live/work was a victim of itself

The Planning Commission's newest member Linda Richardson described the situation aptly: "Live/Work became a victim of

itself. There was a time when Live/Work development was driving our economy and fertilizing the revitalization of some of our most distressed areas. But the success and the aggressiveness of the developers was their own demise".

Joe O'Donoghue who heads the Residential Builders Association (RBA), the main proponent of unrestrained live/work development, had for the past two years maintained an absolute hard line in the ongoing debates regarding how these luxury units were in conflict with the industrial zoning. He and his army of construction workers came to hearing after hearing over the past two years. They routinely objected to any proposal that would limit what they could build or where, and at what price. Occupants who were supposed to have a business, or anything else that was proposed as a solution that would meet the needs of a more diverse population, were overlooked.

Instead, the RBA built up such outrage at what many saw as their flagrant misuse of the live/work codes that it eventually backfired. The result has been the creation of a moratorium that is far more extensive than anyone would have thought reasonable for a City with such a serious housing shortage. A representative of SPUR (San Francisco Planning & Urban Research) outlined at the hearing last week findings from a report issued by the organization which projected these controls would trigger a new wave of housing inflation if approved.

At the hearing one contractor after another testified that their livelihoods and families depended on the continued construction work. So now instead of working toward changes in the live/work rules to make these units more affordable and more functional for the incubator businesses that are the backbone of our economy, we will have no more live/work at all.

Neighborhoods like the NEMIZ, which could have been the center of a vital arts scene had provisions of the live/work ordinance been upheld and artist studios been created from underutilized industrial buildings, will instead continue on the path toward a high-tech office district financed by huge corporate capitalists. We can all guess where the aliens from Silicon Valley will choose to live and who will be displaced to make room for them. The silicon implants have already discovered that the Mission is a far better place to live than SOMA. All in all, it is an unsettling situation for the historical population of the Mission, residents and workers alike.

*Editors note: at press time Supervisor Sue Bierman was preparing to introduce legislation to ban live work construction citywide for six months.*

# It wasn't broken. But they fixed it, anyway.

*The untold story of San Francisco's housing crisis.*

## 1. THE CITY THAT KNEW HOW.

IN 1970 San Francisco was the same town, but different. It was the multi-ethnic sophisticated seaport city of legend, the Paris of the Pacific, that it is today. It was also called, then, the City That Knows How.

The difference was that in 1970, the City That Knew How did not have a housing crisis.

Rents were moderate and stable, home prices were slightly above market but not unaffordable. The vacancy factor—the danger signal in escalating rent prices, a low percentage of vacancies forces rental prices skyward—had stayed at a healthy 4 to 6 percent throughout the 50's and 60's.

Federal government housing guidelines warn that anything below a 4 percent vacancy rate signals trouble for renters and home buyers alike. At that point, the market stumbles over the trip wire of Economics 1A—that a limited supply means higher prices.

By the early 70's, San Francisco's vacancy rate had fallen to a disturbing 3.2 percent. This slippage was attributed, correctly, to the massive Redevelopment Agency's ethnic cleansing of the Western Addition which razed the Victorian structures housing much of the city's black population.

City planners, however, were undisturbed at the drop in the vacancy rate. They took solace from three decades of a declining population in San Francisco, from a post-war high of 827,000 to 665,000 in 1976. Expert opinion held that by 1990 the city would have a population leveling around the 640,000 plateau. [The population of San Francisco today is approximately 750,000.]

So confident were planners that a continued decline in population would keep rent prices manageable, they commissioned an Environmental Impact Report on a proposed rezoning of San Francisco that would drastically reduce allowable density of residential districts. The new laws downzoned most of the city's neighborhoods in a way that dried up the construction of new apartment units to a trickle. This granted a longed-for wish of many neighborhood activists, and as planning policy, was politically attractive. If new housing is needed, San Franciscans notoriously don't want it in their own backyards.

## 2. "WHAT WE'RE DOING HERE IS PRICING PEOPLE OUT OF THE CITY."

IN RECOMMENDING that San Francisco could afford to divest itself of 180,000 new units of housing before the millennium without creating a housing crisis, the authors of the 1978 Environmental Impact Report, carefully covered their bets, cautioning: "The proposed new zoning regulation works to intensify the pressures for rising rents and housing prices in San Francisco." This ranks as one of the great understatements of the last quarter of the 20th century.

The Board of Supervisors in 1978 voted 8-3 to restrict building new market rate housing in the neighborhoods. Among the naysayers was then-Supervisor Quentin Kopp, who called the proposed downzoning a "disaster" for San Francisco. Kopp predicted that the new zoning would create a housing shortage and drive the middle class out of the city.

"What we're doing here is pricing people out of the city," said Supervisor Robert Gonzales.

These latter-day Cassandras might as well have been predicting the Fall of Troy; few listened. Those who were Cassandras in 1978 have now become prophets. The downzoning restrictions were exacerbated by moratoriums imposed against residential building from 1987 to 1995. New market rate housing construction fell from 1700 units a year in the 70's to 400 in the 90's. The vacancy factor, which

**"Hey! You were supposed to improve housing, not cut it."**

*—Editorial cartoon, San Francisco Progress, 7/12/78*



**"ZONING PLAN EXCLUDES PEOPLE."**—Headline in the community-based San Francisco Progress, opposing the Planning Commission's 1978 zoning decision to drastically restrict the building of new housing in San Francisco. The Progress predicted that putting a freeze on building would drive up the cost of rents and homes and force low and moderate income people out of the city. The price of downzoning, the Progress predicted, was that "Only those who can afford to pay dearly will be able to live in San Francisco."

city planners believed would not drop below 3 percent, plummeted to 1 percent and below.

San Francisco was caught in a classic supply and demand situation, with so little building, housing prices skyrocketed to the highest in the nation.

## 3. CLOGGED SAFETY VALVES.

HOUSING IN SAN FRANCISCO has been hobbled because the city planners forgot to open the safety valves that they themselves had installed to prevent a housing crisis in the event their calculations backfired.

The main safety valve in the event of a drop in the vacancy rate and rising rents was to go back to building new housing. "Unless a surplus of market rate housing can be built the proposed zoning will exacerbate the present lack of housing for low- and moderate-income households," the planners themselves wrote in 1978, forecasting their own disaster.

The safety valve rule of thumb was that new housing production must keep pace with housing needs. This opened a window of opportunity for the elderly and low income families to stay in the rental market—what the planners called the "filter down" effect. Higher income people tend to buy newer housing making older housing "available to low and moderate income households who cannot compete effectively in the market place for new housing."

The law of the real estate jungle is that if a surplus of new market rate housing is not built, older housing will be snatched up by higher income renters and buyers—and low and moderate income people will be forced out of the city. If you want an example of this law in action, look at San Francisco through the mid-80's to the mid 90's.

They said it couldn't happen here. But it did.

## 4. SOUTH OF MARKET M.I.A.

BREAK GLASS IN THE EVENT OF HOUSING CRISIS: The 1978 comprehensive new zoning laws specifically repealed an earlier prohibition (from a 1921 zoning ordinance) on building residential units in industrial areas, spotlighting the old industrial sites South of Market as the solution to the clear and present threat

that a housing crisis might be created by downzoning the rest of the city. The planners walked South of Market and amid the many shuttered businesses—light industry was already in flight from the city—identified vacant lots in the industrial area sufficient for building as many as 223,000 new housing units.

## 5. "WE CANNOT AFFORD TO BE KNOWN AS THE GENERATION THAT SAVED THE WHALES, THE FISHIES AND THE BIRDS ...BUT FORGOT ITS PEOPLE."

SO SPOKE then-Supervisor Robert Gonzales in 1978, voting against downzoning that put San Francisco in the pretty pickle it is today. The city has kept its eye upon the hole of planning and building restrictions, but not the doughnut of people who have to live here. Restricting housing construction the way we have done has made this city a living hell for renters. Judy Seto of the Chinatown Coalition for Better Housing, opposing downzoning: "The opposite of downward filtering is occurring right now—low-income people are being squeezed out of their homes all over the city by richer people."

Today there is controversy over so-called "hive-work" lofts being built South of Market. Some 2000 units of new housing have been built on vacant industrial sites over the past 3 years—the first such significant new market rate housing built in there since the 1978 rezoning laws.

This fuss is excruciatingly ironic, because the vacant lots where live-work units are being built in old South of Market industrial sites were the very ones identified in 1978 by the downzoning planners, as the desirable area to build new housing.

Now there are cries—the loudest from many of the same folks who created the downzoning that gave us the housing crisis—to enact yet another moratorium on desperately needed new residential units South of Market to save the vacant lots for blue collar industry which will never come back, the way the big cargo freighters never came back to the waterfront.

## 6. THE STORY OF A CRIME.

THE STORY of San Francisco's housing crisis is the story of a crime. What began with perhaps the best of intentions ended up a bureaucratic crime against renters, the elderly, first-time home buyers and all lower income households attempting to live in San Francisco in an artificially restricted real estate market with the deck stacked against them.

The city planners knew in 1978 the potential consequences of downzoning if surplus market rate housing was not put on line. They knew they built in safety valves, safeguards to guard against a housing crisis. Yet those safety valves were never turned on. The most important—building new residential housing South of Market—was turned off. Only when private builders began constructing live-work units in the vacant lots South of Market did the housing remedies recommended and mandated by the 1978 planning code begin to kick in.

Every crime has elements of mystery. The mystery is who sabotaged the safety valves intended to protect San Franciscans from the outrageously escalating housing costs that have impacted renters and homeowners alike. Why was the precipitous drop from 4 to 6 percent to under 1 percent vacancy ignored by the city when the safety mechanism to build on vacant South of Market industrial sites is already in place?

Who profited from this crime? These are questions to which the long-suffering renters of San Francisco deserve answers.

# Are gangs an inevitable part of our community?

Mission gang prevention programs must learn from successes in other cities to reduce youth violence

By David Mauroff

A seventh-grade girl acts out and intentionally draws attention to herself by making faces every time the teacher turns his back. An older brother intentionally bothers his sister until she cries and their parents have to tell him to stop. A sixteen year-old male hangs in the same place every day, wearing all blue and intimidating people who pass by.

All of these young people are lacking something in their lives. How they go about meeting their needs is different, but all have found a way to make sure they get what they want. When looking at gangs and their impact on a community, it is important to understand the reasons why youth join gangs and how those groups are structured. Almost every child and situation is different, but gang members have enough in common to build fierce loyalty.

## Three kinds of gangs

Street gangs can be broken down into three main categories: corporate, territorial and scavenger. Each type stands alone, but there are examples of street gangs that fall into more than one category depending on different situations. Based on leading gang specialists, Irving Spergel, Ronald Chance and David Curry, gangs are defined as a group of people that form an allegiance based on various social needs and engage in acts injurious to public health and public morals.

Corporate gangs have characteristics normally associated with a business. They are geared toward making money. What sets them apart is that there is a group treasury and system for tracking finances. This is not to say corporate gangs have bank accounts and spreadsheet software, but there is an organized approach to handling money. Corporate gangs have a structured hierarchy and an established chain of command. These are the groups that control large sums of money, drugs, guns and other contraband. This is not representative of gangs in the Mission.

Territorial gangs lay claim to a certain area or turf. Most Mission street gangs fall into this category. Individual members may be involved in dealing drugs and have systems of distribution and sales, but money does not go back into a primary coffers. Members are often involved in petty crimes, like shoplifting and theft. Mission Street, Dolores Park and various sections of 24th Street are all territories claimed by local gangs. They identify themselves with colors (blue, black, and red), tags (22B, LNS, XIX, XIV, etc.), hand signals, clothing, and other ways. The boundaries are well defined among members, but not so obvious to the casual observer. Merchants in the Mission contribute to this problem by allowing youth to use their businesses as hideouts and gathering points. There is a great deal of pride in protecting territory. The Mission is a difficult place for youth to navigate without crossing into rival turf.

Scavenger gangs are the least organized groups. These young people may not have a territory but they still hang together and, by definition of a street gang, usually engage in illegal activity. There is much less structure and drug sales are not as prominent, although drug and alcohol use is still common. A small portion of Mission gangs fall into this category. Right

below this tier is the wanna-be class: youth who mimic gang dress, language and lifestyle without being directly involved.

## Just hanging around

Contrary to proper belief, the lifestyle of a gang member is not that glamorous or wild. A lot of time is spent hanging out with friends, telling stories, standing around and watching the street. Youth that belong to gangs are not animals or wayward sociopaths.

Gangs provide fundamental needs for youth in the form of belonging, acceptance, safety and cultural identity. Much like families, schools and social service agencies, gangs give youth an opportunity to be themselves and have something to do. For some kids, gangs do a better job of providing those opportunities. Understanding gang structure and the reasons youth belong is very useful when designing programs that target the young people involved.

According to census data, there are over 9,000 youth in the Mission between the ages of 7 and 17. In contrast, there are 400 to 500 youth involved with gangs. Less than 1% of youth in the Mission are in gangs, with some organizations listing the amount as high as 3%. Either way, this is a small portion of youth in the neighborhood, but they attract a lot of attention.

## Three strategies

There are also three approaches to dealing with gangs; prevention, intervention and suppression. Prevention involves providing positive alternatives to stop or discourage youth from joining gangs. Intervention programs work directly with gang members, attempting to draw the youth away from the illegal aspects of the lifestyle and hard-core membership. Police and law enforcement agencies carry out suppression by placing youth under arrest and removing them from the streets.

During a two-day workshop conducted by Boys & Girls Clubs of America, involving Mission residents, youth, community-based organizations, merchants and police, participants were asked to list the agencies that carry out prevention, intervention and suppression. As expected, over 34 prevention programs, 12 intervention programs and 5 suppression programs were identified. This is common in most communities. In fact, the Mission has more agencies in all categories than most large metropolitan areas. The problem is not in quantity, but quality.

Because current efforts have not been successful, practitioners, residents and merchants have given in to the gang problem, accepting that it is here to stay. Through the Delancey Street Program and legislation proposed by former Supervisor Jose Medina, suppression efforts have been increased. This is not the only answer to the problem.

Ft. Worth, Texas has a similar situation to the Mission. They have more gangs spread out over a larger area, but their characteristics are the same as street gangs in the Mission. Since 1994, gang related murders have decreased from 37 to 0 in 1998. Robberies decreased from 116 to 11, assault from 921 to 27 and burglary from 43 to 3 incidents, all over the same period. All crime categories related to gangs have the same results.

## Fort Worth and Chicago models

Their program involves 8 sites throughout the city that serve 35 different gang affiliations and over 900 members. At these sites, a combination of Boys & Girls Clubs, Park & Recreation, churches, law enforcement and other agencies work together to provide recreational, educational and employment services for youth. There are 3 hours of programming per evening, all based on the interests and needs of gang members. The program is expanding to include afternoon hours and programs targeting family members. Youth involved with gangs are brought in and challenged, and high standards are set.

Chicago also has a severe gang program, again rivaling the history and depth of Francisco. In one community, a peace treaty was forged with the OA's, Latin Kings and Imperial Gangsters, along with fringe gangs that signed on. A common part of their territory includes a Boys & Girls Club. This area was neutralized so that all members have access to the facility and services. Programs similar to those in Ft. Worth are provided, including a focus on working with the younger brothers and sisters of gang members. In what was once a community living in fear, over the past three years there have been no acts of violence.

There is a lot more to the Chicago and Ft. Worth programs than these brief summaries imply, but the bottom line is that

they have had amazing results. One common theme is interaction with caring, supportive adults who give youth a positive alternative to gang involvement. This is a difficult task and current efforts are falling short.

As evidenced by the extensive collaborations that have made the above programs successful, one agency cannot do it alone. If relationships that are formed mirror those already existing in gangs, the ability to make a positive impact is lost. Current programs should be re-evaluated to determine what works, *not* what is 'comfortable'. Working with gang-involved youth is a challenge, and agencies must challenge themselves to produce results. With all of the social service agencies, staff, facilities and dollars in the Mission, there is the capacity to replicate other city's successful programs. The only obstacle is moving beyond competition for funding and notoriety.

*David Mauroff is an employee of Columbia Park Boys & Girls Clubs, member of Boys & Girls Clubs of America's National Youth Gang Advisory Committee and Mission resident. These articles are designed to raise awareness of issues surrounding gangs in the Mission. The intent is not to cause further divisions among non-profits, but to examine current efforts and see how we can work together in a more productive manner.*



Natural Niman Schell Beef  
 Rocky Free Range Chicken  
 Natural Beef Burgers  
 Veggie Burgers  
 Hot Dogs  
 Fries &  
 Shakes

807 Valencia @ 19th St. 824-3494  
 OPEN EVERY DAY 11 to 11

RASOI

Delicious  
 Tandoori  
 and  
 Curries!

1037 Valencia  
 between 21st & 22nd  
 415-695-0599

"INDIAN FOOD WITH A NEW ATTITUDE"  
 5:30 - 10:30 PM FRI. - SAT. 5:30 - 10 PM SUN - THUR

# Mission Broadsider



**Andy Solow**

## Stonewalled

For the last four years, I have been writing about this City's failure to meet the Charter mandated minimum police staffing level of not less than 1,971 full duty sworn officers by no later than June 30, 1995. Now, nearly five years after the voters mandated full staffing of the Police Department, the SFPD is still at least 120 full duty sworn officers short of the minimum number of cops we demanded.

In response to complaints from this columnist and many others, last October, Supervisor Amos Brown called for a hearing to investigate the problem. The hearing was supposedly scheduled for Tuesday, April 20, at 10am before Mabel Teng's Housing and Social Policy Committee. But, in spite of numerous written and oral requests, Teng never bothered to calendar the hearing. Obviously, police staffing is strictly a low priority item for Teng.

On March 1, Supervisor Brown's legislative assistant Onika McGriff both faxed and hand delivered Supervisor Brown's request for an April 20th hearing date. McGriff followed up Brown's written request with no less than seven personal visits to Teng's office. But, the hearing was never calendared. And come judgement day, Teng claimed that Supervisor Brown had never contacted her office.

Teng then promised to calendar the police staffing hearing as soon as she received a written request from Brown. So, about an hour later, McGriff sent Teng another calendar request. This time, Brown asked that the hearing be held on Tuesday, May 4, at 10am in the Board of Supervisors 2nd floor committee room. But don't hold your breath. At press time, Teng had still failed to calendar the hearing.

For further information, please feel free to call Teng's office at 554-4981, 554-4982, 554-4983, or you can fax Teng at 554-4985.

## Much ado about alcohol

After being evicted from the former location of Mi Rancho Market at 3365 20th Street, Dolores Reyes relocated her business to 21st and South Van Ness Avenue. On March 25, Reyes asked the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) for permission to transfer her type-21 off-sale general license (hard liquor) to her new store at 1001 South Van Ness, 60 feet from 999 South Van Ness, the location of Ed and Danny's liquor.

I protested against approval of the proposed license transfer because issuance of an unrestricted hard liquor license to Ms. Reyes would put her in direct competition with the liquor store right across the street. This could only lead to cheap booze and more street drunks, something we really don't need any more of in the Mission District, particularly within a block or two of a non-profit youth facility, a church, two schools and a public playground.

On April 19, SF Zoning Administrator Robert Passmore protested against approval of Reyes' proposed license transfer. And, On April 21, Mission Station Captain Greg Suhr and Permit Officer Ray Austin recommended that Reyes' application be denied because it "appears to violate the Mission Alcoholic Beverage Moratorium."

Though she used to sell single containers of beer and ½ pints of hard liquor when Mi Rancho Market was located on 20th Street, Reyes now says she just wants to sell high priced stuff like imported wines, liquors, and expensive tequilla at her new location.

Even if Reyes does what she says, the unrestricted off-sale hard liquor license she applied for could easily be transferred to a new owner who might not be so considerate. The trick here will be to help Dolores Reyes get a liquor license that will allow her to operate her business without hurting the neighborhood.

## The moratorium and state law

The Mission Alcoholic Beverage Special Use Sub-District zoning controls have been in effect in the inner Mission since June 26, 1996 (SF Planning Code Section 781.8). Among other things, these local zoning controls prohibit issuance of any new off sale liquor licenses. They prohibit changes in the mode or character of operation of any off-sale liquor license issued prior to June 26, 1996 and define any liquor license which ceases to operate for more than 30 days as abandoned.

Section 23958 of the California Business and Professions Code directs the Department of ABC to deny an application for a license if issuance of such license would tend to create a law enforcement problem, or if issuance would result in or add to an undue concentration of licenses. Section 23789(b) prohibits issuance of off-sale liquor licenses within 600 feet of schools, public playgrounds, and non-profit youth facilities, and Section 23789(a) prohibits issuance of off-sale liquor licenses within 600 feet of churches.

The Mission District of San Francisco already has twice as many liquor licenses per capita as any other neighborhood in San Francisco, and 30 times as many liquor licenses per capita as are allowed by State law. Mi Rancho's new location is just 60 feet from Ed and Danny's Liquor, and within a block of three other liquor stores located at: 21st and Mission Streets, 21st and Treat Streets, and 20th and South Van Ness. Also, there is an existing bar at 20th & Shotwell. Furthermore, Reyes' proposed liquor store is within two blocks of a church, a school, and the Jose Coronado

## Public Playground

A previous request to transfer an off-sale liquor license from 2400 Folsom St. to 2499 Folsom St. (La Bodeguita) was denied in 1994. Applicants Vicki and Hugo Aldana had moved their business from 2400 Folsom to 2499 Folsom when their old landlord tripled their rent. In that case, an Administrative Law Judge found that the application to transfer would tend to exacerbate a police problem, would violate the California Business and would not serve the public convenience or necessity.

## Massive for Mumia



On April 24, in one of the largest demonstrations San Francisco has seen in years, 15,000 to 20,000 supporters of death row inmate Mumia Abu Jamal marched from Dolores Park to Civic Center. This was one of dozens of such events that occurred simultaneously nationwide. Photo by Gary Stenger



## Books and Toys for Grown-ups

A clean, well-lighted place for women and men (and parents) to shop for sex toys, books and videos. From enlightening advice, to electrifying erotica, you'll find it at

## Good Vibrations

1210 Valencia (btwn 23rd and 24th St.)  
OPEN Mon-Thur 11am-7pm, Fri & Sat 11am-8pm



## Need a car loan??

Your neighborhood credit union  
is introducing a **NEW CAR LOAN PROGRAM!**

For a limited time only, we are offering  
**NEW & USED CAR LOANS**  
at these **LOW RATES.....**

<b>NEW VEHICLE</b> (80% financing)	7.75%	36 months
	8.00%	48 months
<b>USED VEHICLE</b> (90% financing*)	7.75%	36 months
	8.00%	48 months

\*Not to exceed 100% bluebook value

### Other member services available:

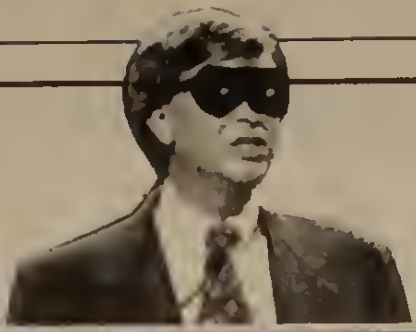
Savings & Checking Accounts, Debit & Visa cards, ATM, CD's, Many other Loan Programs

If you live or work in the Mission, you are eligible to become a member and to apply for a car loan. If you bring this ad and apply for a car loan, we will waive your membership fee! Call us today!!

### Mission Area Federal Credit Union

2940- 16<sup>th</sup> St., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Tel 431-2268 Fax 255-7891

## Silicon Satan



### WHY I AM A ROLE MODEL FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN

On my way home from the Valley the other evening, I was waiting at a traffic light at San Jose and 28th Street. As usual, a homeless person was standing on the median, leering at the commuters. His cardboard placard implied that he had a right to their hard-earned money because he was a Vietnam Veteran - as if a youth spent shooting up villages and napalming babies somehow meant that the world owed him a living! When it became apparent that none of the hard-working young professionals waiting at the traffic impediment were going to give our unwashed war hero so much as a red cent, he began rooting for food in a nearby trash can. Eventually he retrieved a half-eaten sandwich, which he proceeded to gobble down whole.

What struck me most about that disgusting scene was that this wreck of a person, munching on garbage like some greedy city rat, clearly lacked any sense of dignity and self-respect. While I know that it is politically correct to explain such lack of dignity and other basic human values as the effects of poverty, it seems to me far likelier that this is exactly what causes poverty in the first place. In short, the poor are poor because they are people of poor character.

This is a truth which seems lost on certain elements in the Mission. I am of course referring to our local breed of elite artist-activists who have cast themselves as defenders of the poor. Even when, in many cases, their adoption of this role has caused them to be almost as poor as the people they pretend to defend, it is clearly not because of any genuinely humanitarian instincts, but rather because of their cult-like obedience to outdated, socialistic political ideologies. Motivated by their jealousy of those who have made a success of their lives, these self-appointed tribunes of 'the people' romanticize the Mission's poverty-stricken past. They stir up hatred against the affluent young professionals who, in a few short years, have done more to revitalize the Mission than have decades of misguided, government social-welfare initiatives.

The artist-activist elite would do well to consider for a moment why it is that people like myself are rich while they are poor. It is simply because I, and those like me, possess what I would loosely term as a sense of dignity and self-respect: basic human values (self-discipline, determination, vision, and plain common-sense) which they lack. These values are what enabled me to gain the Ivy-league educa-

tion which is a cornerstone of my current financial success. Most importantly, these are values which anyone can adopt as their own and instill in their children, provided of course that they can overcome the knee-jerk jealousy which overtakes society's losers when forced to contemplate the success of others.

Let me express my point in a way which the artists and activists among you might understand. I am rich and you are poor because:

when you were picking your noses and playing with yourselves at the back of the class, I had the *self-discipline* to sit at the front and pay attention to what the teacher was saying;

when, after school, you were doing every drug you could get your little hands on and knocking up your 12-year old girlfriends, I had the *vision* to comprehend why homework was important, and the *determination* to get it done;

when you finally made it to City College only to spend all your time protesting imagined atrocities in places you had difficulty locating in an Atlas, I had the *common-sense* to see through such left-wing nonsense and was already well on the way to securing my Harvard MBA.

So next time I pass your bicycle in my SUV, resist that urge to flip me off. Instead, see me for what I am: someone whose values, if adopted as your own, might one day enable you to break the cycle of poverty. A role model for yourselves and for your children.

## Dog Doo Park Manifesto

By James Russell

I have lived in the Mission/Dolores area for more than a decade. For the past seven years my child and I have been using Dolores Park as an area to run, play soccer and exercise in. Dolores Park is a valuable resource for our entire community, but over the past few years it has become increasingly more like a dog toilet. It is nearly impossible for my son and I to run or play without jumping in piles of excrement that seem to cover every grassy area of the park.

I realize that those in the city who choose to own an animal (that needs to exercise and poop) deserve a space in the park. However, other park users, like parents and children, sunbathers, soccer players, kite flyers, bongo players and amorous couples also deserve space unsullied by dog poop and pee.

At times, dogs overrun even the kid's playground area. Many children feel a bit threatened by an animal weighing as much as they do with sharp teeth and unpredictable behavior. I think these fears are reasonable ones.

My beef is not with the community of dog owners per se. They are my friends and neighbors who have needs like the rest of us. Nevertheless, they must realize that their use of the park directly affects every other park user! Even the most responsible dog owner seems indifferent to the fact that "cleaning up" with a plastic bag still leaves a smelly schmeer that no one wants

to step in, sit on or lie downwind of.

So, how do we as a community maintain respect for each other's needs while sharing our limited open space? I would like to propose a few ideas and would be very pleased to hear others chime in with their own.

#### A few proposals:

1. Designate a section of the park as an exclusive dog-play and owner socialization zone. The area near the bathrooms where most dog owners already seem to congregate seems a good place to start. This area and the slope below, where Fido and company chases balls and Frisbees, could be delineated with shrubbery and signs. This is the central part of the park, not a sideline.

2. The children's playground and the flat area directly below it should be completely off limits to unleashed canines. This leaves a small but flat area for humans who enjoy playing with balls and Frisbees. The soccer field and the sunbathing areas should be absolutely off limits to dogs.

3. Lastly, "responsible" dog owners must develop a self policing ethic which means communicating with irresponsible owners, and even carrying a few extra plastic bags to assist in cleaning up after inconsiderate morons.

I am not interested in banning dogs from public parks, but as our urban open spaces are limited, we must respect the needs of all park users.

<b>Shish Kebab</b> <b>Falafel</b> <b>Shawerma</b> <small>Voted Best Falafel SF Weekly 1997</small>	 mediterranean cafe & restaurant 531 Haight 255-7820 799 Valencia 863-3054 San Francisco
---	--

## BRAINWOMB II

CIN(E)-POEMS

JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup>

ROXIE CINEMA

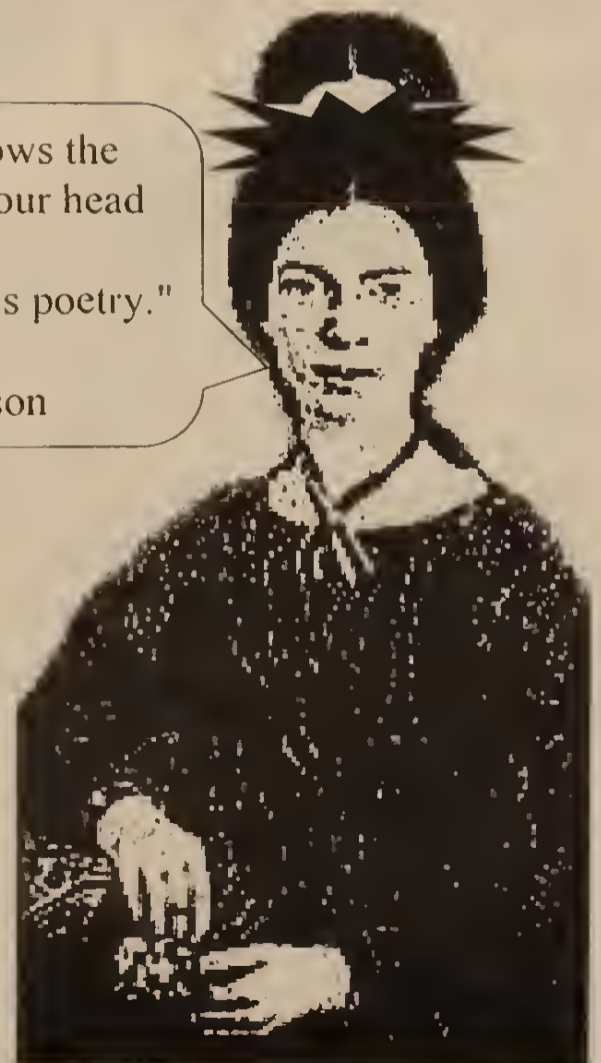
Literary Television presents an evening of mind-blowing short films, videos and animations from filmmakers who have adapted the work of renowned poets. Plus live appearances by SF Slam Poets!

Where: The Roxie Cinema  
3117 16th Street  
San Francisco

When: Thursday June 3rd  
Shows at 7 & 9:30pm

Presented by Literary Television.  
A Project of the National Poetry Association [www.nationalpoetry.org](http://www.nationalpoetry.org)  
Sponsored in part by the Hotel Tax/Grants for the Arts and the Zellerbach Family Fund

"If it blows the top of your head off, THAT is poetry."  
-Emily Dickinson



For the most up to date  
Carnaval information  
from around the world  
check out:  
[www.carnaval.com](http://www.carnaval.com)



# Guest Opinion



## Saving Private Rodriguez?

By Richard Marquez

On March 31, Staff Sgt. Andrew A. Ramirez, 25, of East Los Angeles and Spec. Steven M. Gonzales, 21, of Huntsville, Texas, were two of the three American GIs captured on the Kosovo-Macedonia border by Serbian forces, becoming the first prisoners of the US/NATO war in Yugoslavia.

"We're dealing with it as best we can," said a teary-eyed Gilbert Gonzales, Steven's father, from East Texas where the mass media reports that yellow ribbons adorn trees, car antennas, the railings of prison walls, including one of the nation's leading racial minority killing machines, Huntsville's notorious Death Row (Gilbert and wife, Rosie, are state employees with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice).

In East Los Angeles, one of the most economically depressed and racially segregated barrios of Chicanos and Mexicano immigrants living in the United States, Sgt. Andrew Ramirez' family anxiously waits to hear from Pentagon officials about his status. But they seem slightly more optimistic in words: "I think he can take

care of himself. We're brought up that way. We're survivors," exclaimed a family relative, Frank Jasso, to a Los Angeles Times reporter.

### Collateral Carnage

Three days after the first NATO air raids bombarded Belgrade, Dr. Dragana Vujadinovic told a London Independent reporter of her conversation with a Kosovar father. His son, 14-year old Ivan Tanasijevic, was seriously injured and in a coma: "he asked if he could see his son, I said yes, and the father sat by his bed here and cried."

After interpreting these accounts, I was feeling melancholic and yet enraged by such telling juxtapositions. I saw parallels between the two Mexican-American GIs (born in the great dispossessed "heartland" of Texas and California, or what was once Mexico) and captured by the Serbs during the massive deportations of ethnic Albanians in Kosovo. And in the painfully shared commonality of anguished sentiments, unifying these ethnic fathers as they bemoan the loss of their sons.

The sizing up of similarities didn't stop pulsating in my mind. I recalled hearing about "Operation Wetback" (a 1954 militarized deportation campaign, resulting in the largest armed forced expulsion of over 1 million Mexicans and native-born Chicanos in the history of the US), from my grandmother, Maria Mercedes Magdaleno "Lita," as I affectionately called her, was a Mexicana immigrant from a rural province in the northern state of Jalisco. Although she didn't know the actual title of the campaign or the specific politics driving it, what she did remember was how Mexicans in San Francisco, Fresno and Los Angeles hid or were brutally rounded up by the "migra" and put on one-way trains to a destiny of despair.

Meanwhile in Yugoslavia, US satellite-guided cruise missiles buzz and burst bombastically in Belgrade. A friend of mine, Patricio Rodriguez, 54, disabled, unemployed and homeless is a Chicano Vietnam combat veteran from East Los Angeles. At age 20 he was drafted and shipped to the Cu Chi province in Vietnam with the 25th infantry Division of the US Army, serving from 1965-71. One late night last week he argued: "I think those two Chicano GIs are out of luck because they got caught looking. They were standing in what I'll call Indian country, I think they were suckered in by NATO. It's a shame. I got drafted and went. Back then, I thought it was better than doing time. I had no beef with the Vietnamese."

I facetiously queried him: "Do you think they'll send a combat mod squad to save these Chicano vets held captive, you know, like maybe saving Private Rodriguez?" He smirked, and said: "Hell, no! I don't know how many brothers each of them got, but they won't go rescue Mexicans. The only way those guys are going to get home in the near future is if Jessie Jacks goes and gets them. But what are the chances of that?"

Here, in the US, under the protection of the stars and stripes, a sizable number of Central American, Asian, Mexican immigrants and Chicanos live in an American dream deferred imprisonment, unemployment, low-wage service sector jobs with no health insurance, or the perpetual terror of INS deportations.

Along the militarized 2,000 mile US-Mexican border, the flow of Mexican immigrants has no end in sight. No humanitarian aid is provided. And NATO or the UN High Commissioner on Refugees doesn't recognize the millions as political or economic refugees. On the contrary, "officially" the federal authorities have unleashed a militarized strategy to stem the tide of an unwanted and menacing Mexican population, somewhat akin to the televised Serbian and Albanian mass exodus in Kosovo.

From San Diego, California to Brownsville, Texas, Clinton's 1995 congressionally approved "Operation Gatekeeper" is in full effect. More than 600 US Marines and Army troops have built helicopter pads and roads, constructed corrugated steel walls, and have continuously conducted aerial reconnaissance. I wonder if this is a softer, kinder approach to "ethnic cleansing" on the Rio Grande? Does all this mean a humanitarian catastrophe for North America?

I call on the people of the United States to stop the war in Yugoslavia and along the US-Mexican border. Saving the Private Rodriguezes of our own country from inevitable ground force slaughter will ultimately restore our common humanity amidst all this madness.

*Richard Alberto Marquez is a Chicano political activist living in San Francisco and a participant in many community organizing projects. He can be reached at (415) 436-9707, or via email at magenda@sfo.com.*



## Meat Market

Monday-Saturday

9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Sunday

11:00 am - 6:00 pm

2590 Mission St.

Phone:

**(415) 282-1030**

## Casa María

### Produce Market

"Rated best produce in the Mission by 'Focus Magazine' "

Monday-Sunday

6:30 am - 7:00 pm

1201 South Van Ness Ave.

Phone:

**(415) 641-0830**

Visit our web site

[www.citysearch.com/sfo/casamaría](http://www.citysearch.com/sfo/casamaría)

## Chile Lindo

Authentic Chilean Food

open

Tuesday to Thursday  
9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Friday: 9 am to 10 pm

Saturday

11:30 am - 5:00 pm

**2944 16th Street**

Phone:

**(415) 621-6108**



## Fish & Poultry

Monday-Saturday

8:30 am - 6:00pm

2590 Mission St.

Phone:

**(415) 282-3331**

You and your entire family are invited to

## Stand for Children Day '99 San Francisco's Family Fest

Saturday, May 29, 1:00 to 4:00pm

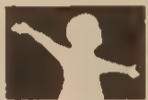
Yerba Buena Gardens

Mission Street (between 3rd or 4th Street)

in San Francisco

- ◆ Children's activities sponsored by the YMCA and San Francisco Recreation and Park Dept.
- ◆ Free information for parents about Child Care, Health, Education, Family Support, Recreation & Summer Programs

Prizes and special guests ◆ Entertainment by local children's groups  
Free passes to the Zeum and the Carousel



Organized by Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth  
459 Vienna Street, San Francisco, CA 94112  
For more information, call (415) 239-0161



This Clarion Alley Mural was done by Rigo 97, who is now Rigo 99 and next year will be known simply as Rigoo. Photo by Jeff Bacon

## Celebrate Mural Awareness Month

By Lauren Rosenberg

May 1999 marks the 9th annual Mural Awareness Month in San Francisco. It is a time for everyone in the painted City to rejoice, appreciate and recognize the artists who have transformed ordinary walls into colorful stories of struggle and triumph. Precita Eyes Mural Arts and Visitors Center sponsors this spirited celebration of public and throughout the month they will be offering a series of participatory and educational events and two community festivals.

Officially begun in 1977, Precita Eyes Mural Arts and Visitors Center is a community based non-profit organization, which grew out of San Francisco's muralist movement in the '60s and '70s. One of only three community mural centers in the United States, Precita Eyes plays an integral role in the City's heritage and arts education. "Accessibility is a key concept of public art," said Natalie O'Neil, Publicity and Marketing Coordinator for Precita Eyes, "This is the people's art and the peoples Gallery. It enhances and beautifies the community and brings people together. People take pride in their work and respect it." The group's dedication to community collaboration guarantees that the work is accessible, both physically and conceptually to the people whose lives it impacts. It is a commitment that is asserted in their mission statement. "We intend to bring art into the daily lives of people through a process which enables them to reflect their particular concerns, joys and triumphs," O'Neil said.

Precita Eyes will be recognizing this year's muralists by presenting awards for their contributions to public art in San Francisco. Miranda Bergman, winner of the Master Muralist 1999 award, has been a community muralist for 25 years and has collaborated with many groups in the US and has created several international mural projects in Nicaragua and Palestine.

Best New Mural Award goes to *The Duboce Bikeway Mural*, located at Duboce Street at Church, behind the Safeway. Created by artist Mona Caron, the 6,075 square foot mural was painted with the help of over 100 volunteers. Project: *Home* is the winner of the Best Collaborative Mural Award. Designed and directed by Aaron Noble and Ellen Rodgers, it was created by five developmentally disabled artists from Creativity Explored in collaboration with 90 preschool students from the Holy Family Day Home. The Mural is located at 16th and Dolores Streets and is a composite of indi-

vidual responses to the notion of home, family and community.

The Topics represented by this year's award recipients are as diverse as the muralists themselves, ranging from the hopes of finding a cure for AIDS to an examination of surrealism, and our views of today's freeways. "Murals tell a story. They show history and they all have meaning. A love of art is the common thread of all muralists," said O'Neil.

**Best innovative Mural:** *Angels of Mercy*, by Cheryl R. Riley, located on 911 EOS Building, 1011 Turk Street.

**Best Children/Youth Mural:** *Freeway Prophecy*, by Johanna Poethig and Sophie Siegman, located on Clementina St. at 18th.

**Best Precita Eyes Mural:** *Hope for the World Cure*, by Susan Cervantes, Clif Cox and Elba Rivera, located on 16th Street at Market.

**Best Privately Funded Mural:** *Celestial Vision*, by Gary Graham and Peter Collins, located on Otis Street at Division.

**Special Recognition Award:** *Clarion Alley Mural Project*, located on Clarion Alley between Mission and Valencia Streets.

Precita Eyes will host two free festivals in Precita Park, which is ground zero for this treasured community organization. The **Mural Awareness Festival**, Saturday, May 15, from 1-5 pm, honors 1999 mural award recipients and will feature a premiere mural performance called "The Curves of Life," involving Precita Eyes Muralists, actors, dancers and musicians. There will be a Muralathon (community mural paint-in) and other hands-on activities for children, youth and families. The **Urban Youth Arts Festival** happens on Saturday, May 22, from 1-5 pm, and includes a mural maze, Hip-Hop music, Rap, dance and more.

Precita Eyes will also offer a series of **Community Mural Discussions** at the Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts, 2868 Mission Street. *Muralists Rights: Preservation/Restoration*, Thursday, May 13, is co-sponsored by California Lawyers for the Arts. *Creating Public Community Mural Art*, Thursday, May 20, will be a panel of this year's award recipients sharing their experiences and ideas about creating public community art. Both discussions will begin at 7:30pm and cost \$5 at the door.

Precita Eyes Mural Arts & Visitors Center, 2981 24th Street, SF, CA 94110, 285-2287  
[www.PrecitaEyes.org](http://www.PrecitaEyes.org)

## The Scarlet Sage Herb Company

specializing in high quality organic & wildcrafted bulk herbs

- ◆ WE CARRY A FULL LINE OF TINCTURES
- ◆ HOMEOPATHIC REMEDIES
- ◆ AROMATHERAPY
- ◆ VITAMIN SUPPLEMENTS
- ◆ BOOKS
- ◆ FLOWER ESSENCES
- ◆ BODY CARE PRODUCTS

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

(415) 821-0997

A Women-Owned Business

1173 Valencia near 23rd

## San Francisco Auto Repair Center

(415) 285-8588

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK  
SMOG CHECK AVAILABLE 7 DAYS

FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC AUTO REPAIRS  
OFFICIAL CALIFORNIA SMOG STATION  
12 MONTH WARRANTY ON ALL REPAIRS

- ◆ Free Shuttle Service to & from BART, Downtown & Nearby Neighborhoods
- ◆ Basic Auto Repair Classes
- ◆ "Do-it-Yourself" Membership Available
- ◆ Men & Women Mechanics
- ◆ Dependable, Guaranteed Work—Honest Prices

- Used Car Prepurchase Diagnostic Inspection Service
- Emission Systems/Smog Test Failure Diagnosis & Repair
- Tune Up/Lube Service/Regular Maintenance
- Cooling Systems • Radiators • Overheating
- Timing Belts • Brakes • Clutches • General Repairs
- Air Conditioning/Heaters
- Electrical Problems/Rewiring/Short Circuits
- Windows/Doors/Vandalism Repairs • Four-Wheel Drive Service
- Struts/Shocks/Suspension/Steering • CV Joint & Axle Service
- Check Engine Light • Computer Diagnostics • Driveability Problems
- Engine & Transmission Rebuilding & Replacement

since 1978

(415) 285-8588

611 FLORIDA STREET (Near 18th St.) • S.F., CA 94110  
BETWEEN HARRISON & BRYANT STREETS

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS & ATM ACCEPTED



\$10  
OFF  
SMOG  
INSPECTION



FREE  
BRAKE  
&  
SAFETY  
INSPECTION  
(\$42.50 VALUE)



\$10  
OFF  
OIL  
CHANGE

# The last Cinco of the century



By Lauren Rosenberg

Respect and peace were tools utilized to unify South Americans, Central Americans, Puerto Ricans and Cubans under a banner of "brown pride," as 60 contingents marched down Mission Street, to celebrate Cinco de Mayo on Sunday, May 2. Sponsored by the Mission Economic Cultural Association (MECA) for the 14th year, floats, marching bands, folkloric dancers and an assortment of social and political groups spread the spirit of cultural pride along 24th and Mission Streets. "This is a time to celebrate our Mexican past while looking towards our Latino future," said Patricia Aguayo, MECA's executive director.

The celebration continued with a festival at Civic Center Plaza. Along with food and entertainment, there were health and education booths on hand offering information and free services. The highlight of the festival was the fourth Annual Cinco de Mayo Classic Car Show. More than 50 customized cars lined the curb of Larkin Street representing a unique and historic part of Chicano culture and heritage.

Cinco de Mayo (May 5) commemorates Mexico's triumph over Napoleonic domination in 1862 at the battle of Puebla.

Though outnumbered more than 2 to 1, the Mexicans defeated the French and May 5 became a national holiday honoring the victory. The anniversary of the battle is a source of cultural pride for Mexicans and people of Mexican ancestry. This celebration is critical to cultivating an appreciation of Latino culture during a time when the Latino heritage of the Mission District is being threatened with invisibility due to the process of gentrification.

## NEW MISSION NEWS

777 VALENCIA, SF, CA 94110  
Ph: 415-695-8702 Fx: 695-2838  
E-Mail: vmiller@sirius.com

- |                   |                               |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Editor-in-Chief   | Victor Miller                 |
| Associate Editors | Lisa González<br>Leila Mansur |
| On-line Editor    | La Huerfana                   |
| Poetry Editor     | Barbara Bennett               |
| Display Ad Design | Alazán Graphics               |
| Layout & Paste-up | V. Navarrete                  |
| Photographers     | Chris Collins<br>Gary Stenger |
| Writers           | Copy Editor<br>Lisa Gonzales  |

- Victor Miller  
Andy Solow  
Lisa Milos  
Andrea Hirsh  
Lauren Rosenberg  
Monica Conrady  
Silicon Satan  
Robert Leaver  
Debby Dunn  
Judy West  
Ted Guliksen  
Richard Marquez  
Richard Reineccius  
Library Lady



Website:  
[www.sfmission.com](http://www.sfmission.com)

## EnCANTAda

GALLERY OF FINE ARTS



Friday, May 14

PRIVATE RECEPTION FOR  
FRIENDS OF ENCANTADA,  
R.S.V.P. only

904 Valencia St. @ 20th  
Hours: Tues.-Sun. 12-6pm,  
Fri.-Sat. 12-8pm  
Ph: (415) 642-3939



12 to 4pm  
Sat., May 15

DJ CHATA GUTIERREZ BROADCASTS HER SALSA SHOW FROM ENCANTADA

89.5 FM, KPOO radio dj & homegirl, Chata will spin the disks live from the halls of Encantada Gallery!  
Come on by & add your alegría to the airwaves!



Friday, May 21

GALLERY EXHIBITION OPENING: Watercolors by Celia Rodriguez, "La Llorona Series: 1984-1985." Works in acrylic by Liliana Gertz-Wilson. Meet the artists.

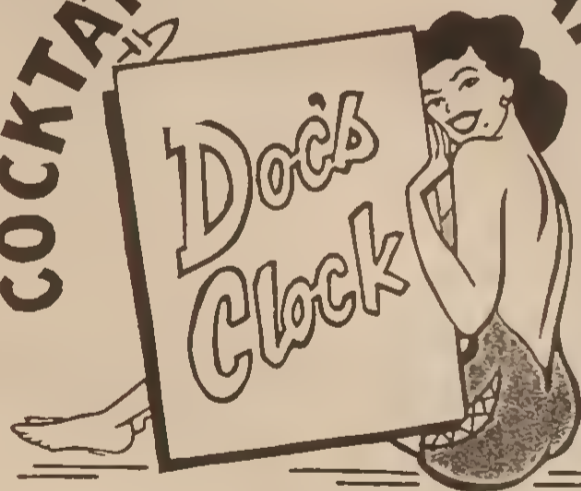
Saturday, May 21

## COME DANCE WITH US

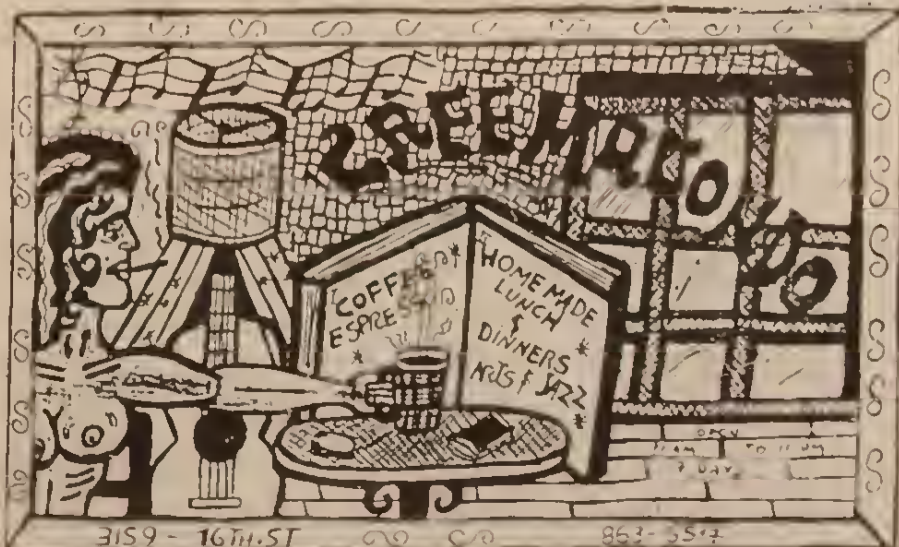
Special Benefit Dance with SAPO and THE KOOL KATZ for "1-800 MECALMA," a domestic violence hotline.  
Tickets available at Encantada Gallery.



## COCKTAILS • ENTERTAINMENT



2575 Mission St.  
tel. 824-DOCS



For the most up to date  
Carnaval information  
from around the world  
check out:

[www.carnaval.com](http://www.carnaval.com)

# Seeing the Elephant



In English & Spanish

Lisa Milos

## May Day 1886 and 1999

May 1st has been celebrated for decades as International Worker's Day. On that day in 1886, a nationwide worker's strike took place in the U.S. marking it as "The year of the Great Uprisings." Not surprisingly, the uprisings were never formally recognized in this country and May Day was replaced by Labor Day, a meaningless, sterile holiday. Now May Day is back.

For the second consecutive year, the Art and Revolution Convergence organized a Reclaim May Day celebration at Dolores Park on Saturday, May 1st. This event featured a May Pole Dance, performances by the SF Mime Troupe, Shaking San Francisco, Youth Speak and others, as well as a free May Day picnic. According to the organizers, this is "a cultural celebration of the political history of International Workers Day. An alliance of arts, community, labor, historical, ecological and activist groups filled the streets to animate our city in opposition to the current assault on the poor, working people

and alternative cultural and political communities."

It's difficult to relate to what happened during the 1880s because... "things were so different then, weren't they?" Well, perhaps in some ways, and then again, maybe not. Back then, workers were fighting for living wages, an eight-hour workday, and affordable housing, among other things. Strikes and demonstrations resulted in an eight-hour workday, public health standards and child labor was abolished. It didn't happen overnight - or even all that same year. But it was public protest that made the difference.

In 1886, working men and women had a formidable opponent. That year, according to Howard Zinn's "A People's History of the U.S.," the Supreme Court abolished 230 state laws that regulated corporations, accepting the argument that these were "persons" and protected by the Constitution. The 14th Amendment, a law that had been intended to protect African Americans from slavery, was ultimately used to protect corporations from being forced to comply with safety and anti-trust regulations, and any restraint on trade, including strikes, was declared illegal.

Today in the U.S., there are some disturbing similarities to that era. According to the Center for Ethics and Economic Policy, one in five full time workers earns an income that falls below the federal poverty line and must now work many more hours to survive. The Campaign for a Living Wage has sprung up throughout the country and is presently being promoted in San Francisco due to the exorbitantly high cost of living. Currently, the securities, banking and insurance industries are becoming deregulated and only pay 21 cents for every dollar that a real person pays in federal, state and local taxes.

Are things really that different?

In 1999, labor unions are being fined because of "sick-outs" by tens of thousands of their members; inmates of a prison population of almost 2 million are being paid as little as 27 cents an hour to make products for companies like MacDonalds and Starbucks. From agriculture to the oil industry, serious health complaints ranging from workplace hazards to pesticide exposure are being ignored by under-funded government agencies.

On May 1st 1886, 350,000 workers in almost 12,000 different sites in the country went on strike.

On May 1st 1999, a culture of endurance was celebrated by making Art of Revolution and Revolution an Art.



More than four thousand people gathered in Dolores Park to reclaim May Day. Many of them joined in a rollicking protest march through the neighborhood. Photo by vmiller.

## El Primero de Mayo, 1886 y 1999

El Primero de Mayo ha sido celebrado por décadas como el Día Internacional de los Trabajadores. En esa fecha en 1886 una huelga nacional se llevó a cabo en los Estados Unidos marcando ese año como el año de la gran revuelta. Sin embargo, esa fecha no fue reconocida en este país y fue substituida por un día estéril, el Día del Trabajo.

Pero parece que no por mucho tiempo más.

Este es el segundo año consecutivo en que el grupo, Art and Revolution Convergence organiza el evento, "Retomando Nuestro Primero de Mayo" en el Parque Dolores. Se celebraron actos tales como un Baile del Palo de Mayo y hubieron presentaciones por el SF Mime Troupe, Shaking San Francisco, Youth Speak, y otros, como también un picnic gratis. Según los organizadores, es "una celebración cultural de la historia política del Día Internacional de los Trabajadores. Esta alianza de grupos artísticos, comunitarios, sindicales, históricos, ecológicos, y activistas llenaron las calles para animar a la ciudad en oposición a los ataques sufridos por la gente pobre, los trabajadores, y los grupos culturales y políticos alternativos."

No es muy fácil reflexionar sobre algo que ocurrió hace más de cien años porque... "las cosas fueron tan distintas en ese tiempo, no?" Bueno, quizás, de alguna forma, sí, pero quizás ni tanto.

Durante ese período, los trabajadores luchaban por sueldos decentes, un día laboral de solo 8 horas, y una vivienda digna, entre otras cosas. Como resultado de las huelgas y las manifestaciones, se establecieron normas para la salud pública, se terminó con la explotación infantil, y los trabajadores finalmente ganaron la lucha por el día laboral de 8 horas. No ocurrió de la noche a la mañana. Ni siquiera ocurrió todo en un mismo año. Pero fue la gente que lo hizo posible.

En los Estados Unidos del 1999 existen condiciones totalmente diferentes, pero, si miramos más detenidamente, encontraremos algunas similitudes muy preocupantes.

Según el grupo Center for Ethics and

Economic Policy, uno de cada cinco trabajadores de tiempo completo gana un sueldo menor al nivel de pobreza. Ahora tienen que trabajar mucho más para sobrevivir que desde hace veinte años. Una campaña llamada "Living Wage", o Sueldos para Vivir, ha sido implementada a través de todo el país y recientemente ha sido promovida en San Francisco, dado el alto costo de vida.

En 1886, los trabajadores, hombres y mujeres enfrentaban una formidable oposición. Según el libro, "A People's History of the U.S." por Howard Zinn, ese año, la Corte Suprema abolió a 230 leyes estatales que regulaban las corporaciones. Fue cuando por primera vez reconocieron a las corporaciones como "personas", protegidas por la Constitución. La enmienda número 14, que fue creada para proteger a los Afroamericanos en contra de la esclavitud fue utilizada para proteger a las corporaciones de mecanismos de control estatal en cuanto a las condiciones laborales y en la creación de monopolios. Las restricciones sobre el comercio, incluyendo las huelgas, fueron declarados ilegales.

En 1999, las industrias bancarias, de seguros y valores están siendo desreguladas, creando una concentración de capital sin precedencia en la historia de este país. Por cada dólar que una persona le paga en impuestos al gobierno federal, estatal y municipal, la entidad corporativa sólo paga 21 centavos. Estamos viviendo durante un período donde las cortes están multando a los sindicatos; donde presidarios que forman parte de una población penal de casi 2 millones reciben 27 centavos la hora por hacer productos para compañías como MacDonalds y Starbucks; donde los trabajadores de la industria agrícola hasta la petrolera están expuestos a químicos de las pesticidas o a explosiones recurrentes, cuyas peticiones son ignoradas por las agencias gubernamentales.

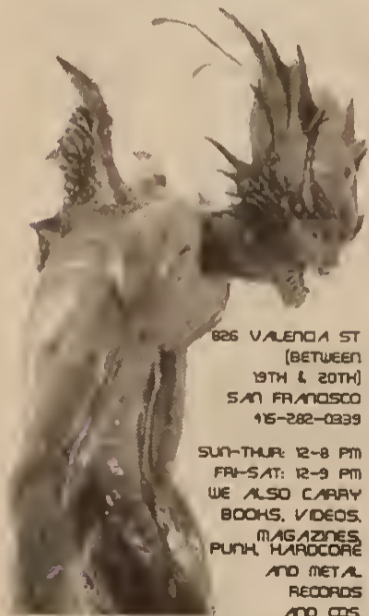
Ahora les pregunto, estamos en condiciones realmente tan distintas que en ese entonces?

El Primero de Mayo de 1886, 350,000 trabajadores en casi 12,000 diferentes localidades del país participaron en la huelga.

El Primero de Mayo de 1999, se celebró la cultura de la Resistencia Haciendo Arte de la Revolución y la Revolución un Arte.

### HOWLING BULL SYNDICATE SPECIALIZING IN JAPANESE TOYS

DEVILMAN, GOZILLA, DRAGONBALL,  
KAMEN RIDER, MAZINGER Z, GUNDAM,  
POCKET MONSTER, GETTER ROBOT,  
GAMERA, MOTHRA, KHAYADA,  
TIGER MASK, DORAEMON, ULTRAMAN.



826 VALENCIA ST  
(BETWEEN  
19TH & 20TH)  
SAN FRANCISCO  
415-282-0339

SUN-THUR: 12-8 PM  
FRI-SAT: 12-9 PM  
WE ALSO CARRY  
BOOKS, VIDEOS,  
MAGAZINES,  
PUNK, HARDCORE  
AND METAL  
RECORDS  
AND CDS.

### "Awareness is Revolutionary"

Ven Urygen Sangharakshita

Free drop-in meditation class every Tuesday at 7pm.  
Meditation and Buddhist courses offered regularly.  
Call for a free program.

**SAN FRANCISCO BUDDHIST CENTER**

37 Bartlett Street @ 21st • 282-2018 • www/bluelotus.com/sfbc



**Jay's**  
cheesesteak

Featuring  
Niman-Schell  
all natural beef  
cheesesteaks, burgers,  
chicken & vegetarian,  
fries & onion rings

Open every day  
from 11am to 10 pm

3285 -21st Street @ Valencia • 285-5200

# LINEA DE INFORMACION SOBRE EL SIDA ENTRENAMIENTO GRATUITO PARA VOLUNTARIOS



La Línea de Información sobre el SIDA en español de la San Francisco AIDS Foundation esta reclutando voluntarios que hablen español o que sean bilingües (inglés/español) para atender llamadas de todo el estado de California. La Línea recibe miles de llamadas al año de personas preocupadas con esta epidemia. Los voluntarios de la Línea proveen información y fundamentalmente educan como prevenir la infección del VIH y demás aspectos vinculados al SIDA.

En la mayoría de los casos, los voluntarios dan referencias de centros médicos o clínicas donde las personas puedan recibir tratamientos o hacerse la prueba del VIH. También refieren llamadas a agencias que trabajan con asuntos de VIH e inmigración. Consejería y apoyo emocional constituye una tarea importante de quienes atienden las llamadas.

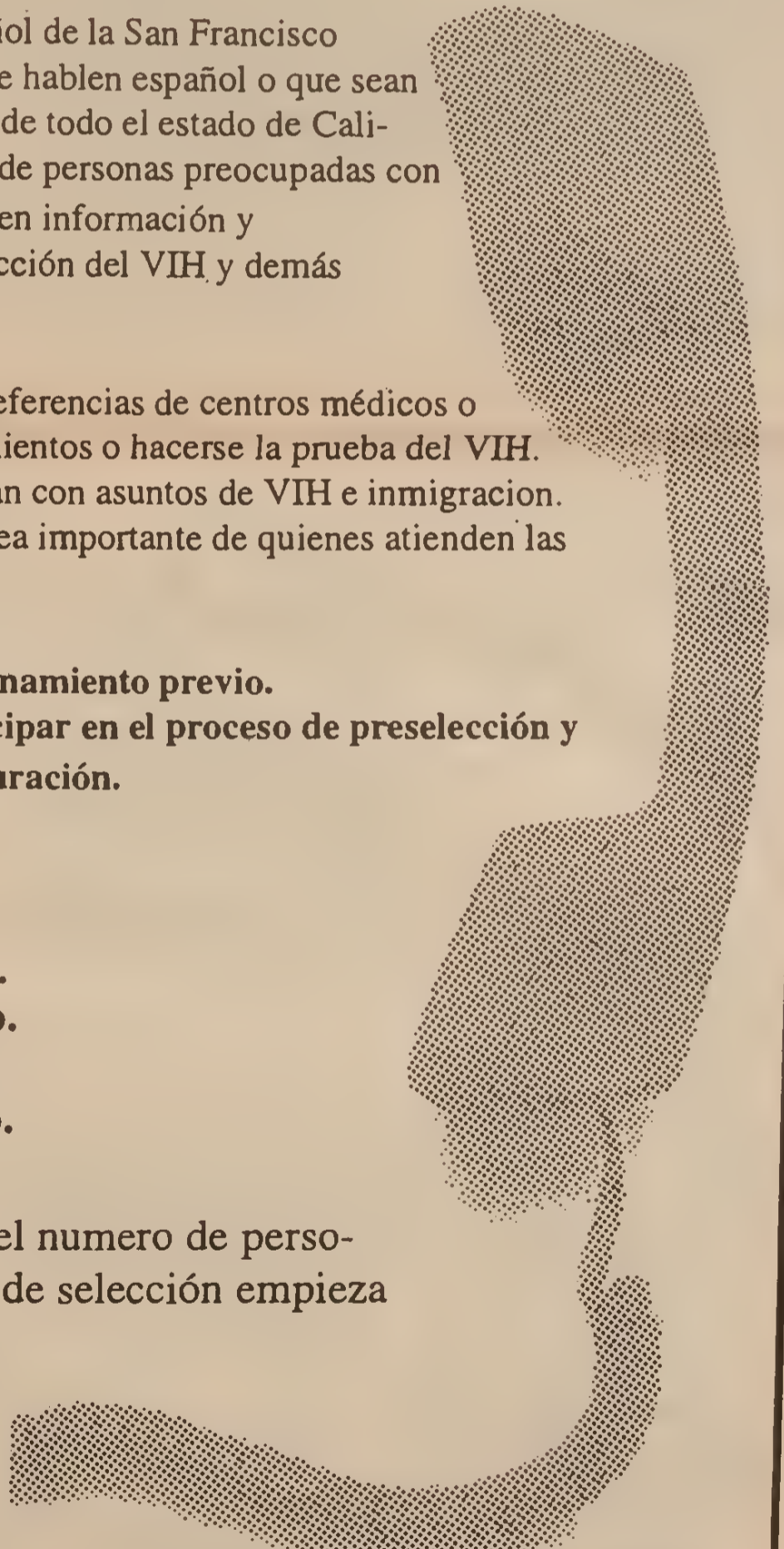
**Para trabajar en la Línea se requiere un entrenamiento previo. Aquellos interesados deben llamar para participar en el proceso de preselección y registrarse en el entrenamiento de 4 días de duración.**

**Por favor, note las fechas correctas:**

**Sábado 15 de mayo.  
Domingo 16 de mayo.  
Sábado 22 de mayo.  
Domingo 23 de mayo.**

El entrenamiento es totalmente gratuito y el número de personas que participan es limitado. El proceso de selección empieza con 6 semanas de anterioridad al entrenamiento. Si está interesado por favor llame con anticipación si desea información.

Comunicarse con Enrique Asis, Coordinador de Voluntarios (415) 487 8083.





Composed by Soroh Bordeen  
Design by Novorrete-Alozón

# Mission District Calendar

## MAY

### 5

#### WEDNESDAY

**Intallations Galore** – Four artists fill Space 743 with sculpture putatively reflecting the "human condition." Can affirmative action and gender and race in the work place be reflected in a pile of plaster of paris? You be the judge. 743 Hamson, through June 5. 777-9080

### 6

#### THURSDAY

**Resistant Videos** – If they can tame this renegade celluloid, Critical Resistance will premiere two videos on the critical issue of the prison industrial complex, its complex origins and its impact on families. "USA, INCarcerated" and "Critical Resistance: Visions of Freedom" outline the growth of the PIC and examine the inspiring mobilization of artists, intellectuals and activists against it. Show up and put your shoulder to the hoe. No files baked in cakes, please. 8 pm. 992 Valencia St.

**Kronos Quartet Chick** – Cellist Joan Jeanrenaud, \_ of the acclaimed Kronos Quartet, strikes out on her own to collaborate with dancer/choreographer Melissa Fenley in a series of experimental solos in dialogue called "Solos...Duets...". Jeanrenaud is without a doubt one of the most innovative cellists around; just to see what comes out of her brain sans the quartet will be très intéressant. Opens today at Theater Artaud, 450 Florida. 621-7797.

### 7

#### FRIDAY

**Let Your Fingers Do the Walking** – Kids, it's finally National Masturbation Month! Remember all those years of Unicef boxes, dejected begging and poor returns? Stop pounding the pavement and start flogging the log or fingering that pearly oyster—and for a cause. Good Vibrations is sponsoring a national Masturbate-A-Thon, with all proceeds going to regional HIV and AIDS organizations. The more you make it with yourself today, the more these worthy organizations make. Let's come together on this issue. To request a form, call 1-800-289-8423 x172.

**SF Sex Worker Film and Video Festival** – The weekend-long festival benefits the Tenderloin Self-Help Center, with a portion of donations going to the new Sex Worker Project. See

films like "Transvestite Hookers" starring Rue Paul, "Queens" and "The Salt Mines" by Carlos Aparicio and Susanna Aiken. Today and tomorrow at the Roxie, Sun. at ATA. Turn out to help underserved populations. \$7. 3117 16th St. 2 pm. 751-1659.

### 8

#### SATURDAY

**Shape Up or Ship Out** – The Spring Open House art happening happens again in the Hunters Point Shipyard, a working Navy base shared with civilian artist tenants. Take a day tour of indoor and outdoor artists' spaces filled with art, demonstrations, music, food and workshops. All free, Sat and Sun. 11-6 pm. For a map, call 387-5936.

**Community Music** – Community Music Center's Faculty showcase their original jazz and classical compositions at today's free concert. 8 pm. 544 Capp. 647-6015.

**Puppeteering** – Let some original puppeteers profiteer off the public, go see "The Hungry Wolf and the Selfish Giant" at The Marsh. Both stories celebrate children's strength and ingenuity. \$5-8. 1:30 pm, 1062 Valencia. 641-0235.

**From the Cannibal's Mouth** – Theatre Rhinoceros premieres "Fed Up: A Cannibal's Own Story" by Ricardo Bracho. Marketed as a burlesque, a love story and an exorcism in two acts, expect a lot of cross-cultural hamming. \$12-20. 8 pm, runs through June 6. 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

### 9

#### SUNDAY

**Where's Wally?** – The Powerhouse Bar, SF's premier leather bar, is hosting Wally's Benefit Birthday Party. Who's Wally? He's won the 1998 Community Recognition Award from the AIDS Emergency Fund and much more. Participate in fun events like the 14th Wally Look-Alike Contest, the 13th Wally's Mother Contest, and the 11th Wally's Boy Contest. The party benefits the AIDS Emergency Fund and Shanti. 6-9 pm. Contact the man himself at 415-ALL-HQOD for more info.

**PFLAG Support** – Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays raises the flag over Marc Adams, author and speaker, who speaks today about growing up in the family of a fundamentalist Baptist minister and later coming out. Bring down the barriers. 2-3 pm support groups, 3-4 pm talk. 152 Church. 921-8850.

### 10

#### MONDAY

**William Blake in Hollywood** – For the literarily obsessed, this staged reading of the new play by Lynne Kaufmann should prove salivatory material. A British academic hits Hollywood and finds romance in the process of explaining Blake to SoCal philistines. If that's not ripe, what is? Anyhow, see some new theater. 8 pm, \$10 at ODC. 17th at Shotwell. 863-9834.

### 11

#### TUESDAY

**Northwest Bernal Alliance Meeting** – The Northwest Bernal Alliance will meet to discuss, among other things, the new megastore proposed for Cesar Chavez and South Van Ness Ave. If you care about your Bernal dwelling, show up. 7 pm sharp at 190 Coleridge St. 282-2489.

### 12

#### WEDNESDAY

**Poetry to the People** – See a couple of SF rhymerz take over the stage and the page at SF Public Library. Genny Lim and Don Paul toss off poetry like the phat bards they are. Check them out at the main library, 5:30-7:30 pm, for FREE. 557-4277.

### 13

#### THURSDAY

**Cyberotica!** – In our cool gray carpet-walled world, thank heavens for the explosion of sex on the internet. The Tuck & Roll Players present a new "Low-Tech Rock Musical about a High-Tech World": *Cyberotica!* The musical touches on sensitive web developments with a cast of terociously talented drag and underground performers. Transmission Theater, every Thursday through July 29. 9 pm, 314 Eleventh at Folsom.

### 14

#### FRIDAY

**Super Torta by Cat Callejas** – Set in a Mission bakery, *Super Torta* is a theatrical farce about a young panadera who is challenged by Hollywood royalty to create erotic edibles. The story follows an erotic pastry chef, a displaced Latino poet and others battling insane INS agents, perverted panaderos and a six foot chicken. The outcome, of course, is the ultimate Super Torta, a feat even Esperanto has yet to pull off. At the Bindlestiff Studio, 185 6th Street. \$8-12. 974-1167.

**Coro de Caras** – Always fun, and especially on an early Friday evening, an artist's reception hosted by Ana & Ray at ArtBeat. This time the punchbowl swirls for the exhibit *Chorus of Faces*, the wire drawings, kinetic paper toys, boxes and collages of Osvaldo Ruiz Muñoz. 7 to 9:30pm, ArtBeat Gallery & Gifts, 3266 -21st St., off Valencia, Free, 643-8721.

**Shanti Volunteer Training** – Volunteers are needed at Shanti to help run errands, shop clean cook talk laugh cry go for walks share hope and listen to people with HIV/AIDS in San Francisco. Comprehensive trainings are held this weekend and next. Sign up. Call Maureen at 674-4722 or email Msmith@shanti.org.

### 15

#### SATURDAY

**Chronic Pain Management** – It's a bitch being in pain all the time. St. Luke's Hospital is offering a class on pain management; all you need to do is call and register. No pain involved. 10:30-Noon at 3555 Army. Call 641-6465.

**Noche de Salsa '99** – Join with Shanti and Instituto de la Raza and dance to the music of Conjunto Cespedes at the Cathedral of St. Mary's, 1111 Gough St. Find sponsors and raise \$50 minimum to attend the event; donations will support Shanti's El Programa Latino and Instituto's Mano a Mano. Prizes will be awarded to dancers. 8-11 pm. 674-4764 to participate.

### 16

#### SUNDAY

**Act Up for AIDS** – Sister Kitty Catalyst asks us to join ACT UP and the much-disputed Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence for the SF AIDS Candlelight Vigil to commemorate the 18,000 San Franciscans lost to AIDS, and the 20,000-plus people living with HIV/AIDS. Let's honor the work done around this pandemic, and keep up the push for more. Vigil leaves from Market/Castro and proceeds to City Hall at 8 pm. 252-9200.

### 17

#### MONDAY

**The Empire's Three Strikes** – The Roxie Theater runs "The Legacy: Murder & Media, Politics & Prisons", Michael J. Moore's searing documentary on California's Three Strikes law. The movie reveals the disturbing process by which criminal justice policy is made in this country, and adds to the body of evidence about rampant prison growth in the "free" world. Through May 20.

**The Violent Task of Creativity** – Artist/activist Claudia Bernardi and her students from Mills College and SFAL will discuss their installation at Intersection for the Arts tonight. Free. 8 pm. 446 Valencia. 626-2787.

### 19

#### WEDNESDAY

**Vonnegut Says...** – Oxygen, a "great literary magazine" according to Kurt Vonnegut, celebrates its 19th issue with a continuous round-robin of readings by magazine contributors at Café Americana, 968 Valencia. 6-8 pm.

### 20

#### THURSDAY

**The Seven Habits of Highly Stimulated People** – That's right, a bunch of talented self-starters will demonstrate how they can multi-task at tonight's "One Handed Reading", a celebration for National Masturbation Month at New College. See Carol Queen, Pat Califia, Shar Rednour, Thomas Roche and more read their masturbatory prose with one hand on the page and the other, well...look Ma, one hand! Anyhow, New College specifies this event is for our *aural* enjoyment, so leave toys at home. No one can hear prose over the buzz of a Hitachi Magic Wand, now can they? \$5, 7-9 pm. 777 Valencia. 974-8980.

### 21

#### FRIDAY

**"Farewell Nineties"** – Start the millenium celebrations early at the St. Kevin's annual festival. There will be games, booths, food and fun for all ages. Friday through Sunday, 6:30 pm Fri/Sat, 1 pm Sun. Ellsworth St. Hall off Cortland Ave on Bernal Hill. 648-5751.

**Classical Music** – Pianist Aurore Peterson graces the Community Music Center with an evening of solo piano with some guest artists. Peterson will play everything from Bartok to Ellington. 8 pm. Free. 544 Capp. 647-6015.

**Cinderella Unravelled** – Can't anyone let us have a happy ending these days? With dance pieces about the Unabomber, it's no wonder Theater Artaud feels the need to present the tale of Cinderella, reworked by three women artists to portray the devastating effects of abuse on America's women and children. Through Sunday. \$15.50-17.50. 8 pm. 621-7797.

**MARIACHI'S** *The Newest Mission District Landmark!*

**"Traditional and Innovative Mexican Food"**  
Mexican Beer and Wine

**508 Valencia St. @ 16th San Francisco 621-4358**

**Taco Bar**  
"Where every meal is a Fiesta"

**22**

**SATURDAY**

**Psychic Horizons Heals Today** — Hallelujah, finally free psychic healings in the Mission. Got something wrong with you but you can't figure out what it is? Let a psychic tune into your cosmic wavelengths and wave a few crystals around. You may get lucky. 2 pm. 972 Valencia. 643-8800.

**Klezmer at Atlas** — Hoist your knee socks and head down to Atlas for a truly rooted Balkan experience. Manic warblings and scale-jumping by fab musicians The Gonils. Just remember, for a moment, the old country. 3049 20th St. at Alabama. 4-7 pm. 648-1047.

**Radical Women Discuss Needle Exchange** — Discuss the finer points of needle exchange at this knitting forum, uh, excuse me this public discussion on why providing free clean hypodermics prevents AIDS and other blood-borne infections—and yet is still illegal in this "progressive" state of California. 2 pm, 1908 Mission St. Homemade lunch at 1 for \$6.50 donation. 864-1278.

**23**

**SUNDAY**

**Dance, Dance, Dance** — Three dance companies perform together at Dancers' Group Studio Theater tonight: The Foundry, Leigh Evans, and Etiquette Physical Theater. A unique chance to see all three. 8 pm, \$10. 3221 22d St. 824-5044.

**27**

**THURSDAY**

**Reclaiming America** — Have activists taken the adage "Think Globally, Act Locally" too seriously? Author Randy Shaw argues that with nearly exclusive focus on local issues, citizen activists who spent decades building progressive federal programs are losing grounds. 7:30 pm, Modern Times 888 Valencia. 282-9246.

**Home Safety for Seniors** — If you're a senior (in life, not in college) you should take this class on home safety. It's nice to feel secure. 3-5 pm at St. Luke's Hospital, 3555 Cesar Chavez. 641-6465 to register.

**Bluegrass and Old-Time Music Jam Session** Atlas Café, 3049 20th St. at Alabama. 648-1047.

**28**

**FRIDAY**

**The Many Faces of Claire** - ATA will be the site of an extraordinary performance in film, video and in the flesh, by Claire Bain, the Lucille Ball of experimental film! (And you thought you knew her!) 8pm, ATA, 992 Valencia, 824-3890.

**No Peanut in This Brittle** — "Brittle" is an interdisciplinary, evening-length dance piece offering a non-linear look into the relationship an individual has with her/his identity. And I don't think they mean it's sweet and sticky. Through Sunday. 8 pm, \$12. 3221 22d St. 824-5044.

**29**

**SATURDAY**

**Rube Waddell in Concert** — Forsaking "Live at Leeds", local musical madmen Mark Growden and Rube Waddell bring their harmonic theatricality to ODC to make Memorial Day weekend memorable in more ways than one. Sat and Sun 9 pm. \$8. 863-9834.

**30**

**SUNDAY**

**Camaval!** — Don't forget the Mission's crown jewel this year. Camaval San Francisco is celebrating it's 20th anniversary. 32 contingents of gorgeous dancers, drummers, rollerskaters, stiltwalkers, and scores of children as well as bass-pumping floats (if we remember correctly) will wend its way through the streets of the Mission, momentarily transforming our hood into Sao Paulo in leathers and string bikinis. This is good wholesome fun for the whole family. The Street festival on Harrison begins at 11 and runs till 6 pm; bring your dancing shoes and a very un-American sense of fun.

**31**

**MONDAY**

**Carijama** — Head over to Oakland for the Carijama Festival held in Oakland's Mosswood Park. Laid back & mellow, it should be a whole lot of fun.

**on...**

**ONGOING**

**Mondays**

**Senior Survival** — A free lesbian-gay series serving you and your senior friends. Discover your rights as a senior, services you're entitled to, and benefits you deserve in just four Monday afternoons. 145 Guerrero, 1 pm-4 pm. Sponsored by GLOE, Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders. 255-2937.

**Tuesdays**

**Women's Night** — Tuesday is women's night at Venue 9. Live performances every Tuesday build exposure for the multitudes of productive female artists. 8 pm, 252 Ninth. 289-2000.

**Wednesdays**

**¡Cine Argentino!** - Presentando lo mejor del director argentino Fernando "Pino" Solanas - el 12 de mayo, *Sur*, una verdadera institución del tango; el 19, *El exilio de Gardel*, para los argentinos que viven soñando con alguna vez volver; y el 26, *El Viaje*, la odisea de un joven en la más fabulosa de las aventuras, que es la de inventarse a sí mismo. Todas en español, por supuesto. 7pm, en el Centro Cultural de la Mission, 2868 Mission St. Admisión: \$5

**Thursdays**

**Free Tenants Right counseling** — Don't roll over when it comes down to a landlord's pursuit of profit versus your right to keep on living in da neighborhood. 6-8 pm at Cafe la Boheme, 24th and Mission. For more info call 398-6200

**Fridays**

**SF Games** — Friendly card and board games open to all players at Calé Commons, 3161 Mission St. This is a healthy alternative way to meet people; you may just find your thrill over Scrabble. 7-10 pm rain or shine. 679-3678.

**Saturdays**

**ATA Films** — ATA offers Saturday night Other Cinema screenings, featuring films outside the corporate framework. This month see films on the Biotic Baking Brigade, multi-media, cultural appropriation and more. 8:30 pm, \$5. Call 824-3890.

LOCAL ARTISTS

**CITY ART**

GIFTS  
CERAMICS  
JEWELRY  
PAINTINGS  
LAMPS  
CANDLES  
MASKS  
PLANTS  
OBJECTS  
FURNITURE  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
GREETING CARDS

CITY ART  
828  
VALENCIA  
970-9900

LOCAL ART

**Announcements**

**CELL** offers a range of classes, from Jazz Theory to Hip Hop History, bookbinding, capoeira, and puppet-making. 2050 Bryant, call for a schedule. 648-7562.

**The Riley Center** is looking for volunteers to aid in their work on behalf of battered women and their children. Next volunteer training happens June 5. Call 552-2943.

**BAVC** offers workshops and seminars on video and new media production and postproduction. All skill levels accommodated. Call 861-3282

**Shanti Motorcycle Pride Ride Benefit** is accepting registration for the motorcycle ride and post-party at the Eage Tavern. Win prizes and raise money to benefit Shanti in its work for people living with HIV/AIDS. The ride happens June 6. Call 674-4720.

**Art Beat**  
GALLERY & GIFTS  
3266 -21st Street  
(off Valencia) 643-8721 Tel/fx



**Coro de Caras/Chorus of Faces**

Wire Drawings, Kinetic Paper Toys,  
Boxes & Mixed Media Collages by

**Oswaldo Ruiz Muñoz**

(May 2 thru May 30, 1999)

Reception with the Artist

Friday • May 14 • 7:30 to 9 pm

An eclectic collection of contemporary fine art, jewelry, cards, toys and gifts for all occasions, ages and budgets

Open Tues-Thur. 10-7pm Fri-Sat: 10-9pm Sun-Mon: 12 noon-7pm

Secured public parking across the street, MUNI, BART, bike & wheelchair accessible  
email: artbeatsf@juno.com Toll free mail order # 1-800-233-5136



Cuban  
Picadillo,  
Tiramisu  
& Poetry

Hosted by  
Jorge Argueta, Alfonso Tejedor, Teresa Kennett.

**9pm • Friday Night Reading Series**

**Cafe multi Cultural** 1109 Valencia St. near 22nd • 824-7659  
**VALENCIA**  
NOCTURNAL MON-SAT 7:30 TO ROUND MIDNIGHT

**MODERN TIMES**  
888 Valencia St./20th  
INFO: 282-9246  
www.mtbs.com  
LIBROS IN ESPAÑOL



Independent  
bookselling  
for 26 years  
at the radical  
edge of politics  
and culture

# Carnaval Countdown

Monica Conrady



It's countdown time, Carnaval San Francisco fans. With less than four weeks to go, the pace is really picking up. Dance and percussion classes are packed and there's a decided buzz in the air. One gets the sense something big is brewing. Something is - *Carnaval!*

There were 31 contingents entered in the Grand Parade at press time. All of the usual suspects will be coming out, including perennial favorites like Bucna Vista School who'll be leading the pack, Comparsa Viva Panama and both colorful Bolivian groups. There's a few Carnaval casualties, two notables being Bloco Loco and Samba de Coracao. A big time award winner in the last two Carnavals, Samba de Coracao, under the direction of Mary Dollar and Fernando de Sanjines, grew to be one the area's finest samba schools. They won't be on the parade route this year - due to funding, or rather, the lack of it - but they will be performing at the Festival on Harrison Street. Go Samba do Coracao!

Classes and rehearsals Although they've been in full swing for some weeks now, it's still possible to 'jump in' late in the game. A lot of folks do. The following is a small sampling of what's out there for procrastinators or former couch potatoes who want to join the fun.

Escola Nova de Samba, with Josephine Morada and Rudy Ortiz, celebrating its 15th anniversary this year rehearses Thursday nights at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center on Cortland Street, 7:30 to 9pm. Their theme: *A Tribute to Iansa: Goddess of the Winds*. They'll also be rehearsing in Golden Gate Park every Sunday this month, except Mother's Day. For information call (425) 661-4798.

"It's never too late to jump with All Ah We," says Ms. Sweet Waist, AKA Suzanne Ludlum. Dance classes are held Wednesdays 7:30pm, at the Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission St. and there's a Caribbean-style Carnaval Jam Saturday, May 15, at The Attic, 3336 24th. View the 1999 costumes, sign up to play "mas" and dance the night away. For information call (510) 532-1720.

For fans of Fogo Na Roupa, celebrating their 10th year anniversary this year, May is just one long party. Dance parties will be held at Bahia Cabana, 1600 Market St. (at Franklin), on Saturday, May 1 and May 15. There's also a post-Carnaval ball at Bahia Cabana the night of Carnaval (assuming everyone can still stand up). They rehearse Saturdays at the Mission Cultural Center and Sundays at the CityCentre Dance Theatre in Oakland. Call the Fogo hotline for details (510) 464-5999.

Caribbean Groups based in the East Bay are busy gearing up for the big day too. D'Midas International has as their theme, *Muthos*, which is the origin of the word 'mythology'. Participants will depict the various mythical gods and goddesses. For information on their *Mas Camp* and upcoming Carnaval fetes, call (510) 685-2443, (408) 229-8018 or (925) 426-1288.

Abada Capoeira/Brazilian Cultural Academy, 2376 Mission St. (at 20th) offers classes in capoeira, percussion,

Afro-Brazilian dance and samba. Rehearsals are held Saturdays. For information call (415) 284-6916.

Dance Mission, at 24th Street at Mission, is where several familiar dance instructors including Blanche Brown of Group Petite La Croix and Conceicao Damasceno of Ginga Brazil give classes. Ginga also holds Carnaval rehearsals here, Sundays from 4 to 6pm, call (510) 428-0698 for more information. Blanche's group, which is part of the MaraReggae contingent, will also be rehearsing in Golden Gate Park. Also, great for building up stamina for that long parade down Mission Street, there's Benny Duarte's World Beat Workout on Saturday mornings, 10:30 to noon and Jean Luc Stora's Samba class Wednesdays, 6 to 7:30pm. Sweating guaranteed. Call (415) 826-4449 to find out more.

Rhonda Stagnaro Low's Group, MaraReggae, together with Group Petite La Croix and Danza Azteca, maintain headquarters at Rhythm and Motion Studios located at 1133 Mission St. They Rehearse in Golden Gate Park on Sundays. For more information call (415) 621-0643.

If Salsa is your thing, check out Ruben Aponte's rehearsals at the Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission St. (see story on page 17) This contingent will really heat up the streets Carnaval Sunday. To learn more call (415) 821-1155.

Aquarela, with Maria Sousa, is introducing the first Trio Electrico (basically a huge flatbed truck carrying an entire band) to the Grand Parade this year. You'll be able to hear them long before you see them. Dance classes and rehearsals are in Emeryville. You can contact them at (510) 548-1310.

There's a lot more but I'm running out of space—and steam!!

This is the last Carnaval of the 20th century, gang, and Carnaval San Francisco's 20th anniversary. Let's party!



Carlos Silva, a dancer with Aquarela who does a mean samba and Sorci'da 'Sorci' Harris, a lovely salsaera from Panama were named King and Queen for 1999. Photo by Chris Collins

## Viva Carnaval!

Note: For the third year running, the California/Brazil Summer Camp, under the direction of Dennis Broughton and Marcelo Pereira will take place at the beautiful Cazadero Performing Arts Camp

up in the redwoods near the Russian River. Brazilian music, dance and capocira workshops taught by world class instructors will be held August 29 to September 5, 1999. From beginners to professionals, everybody's welcome. Information (510) 655-8207.



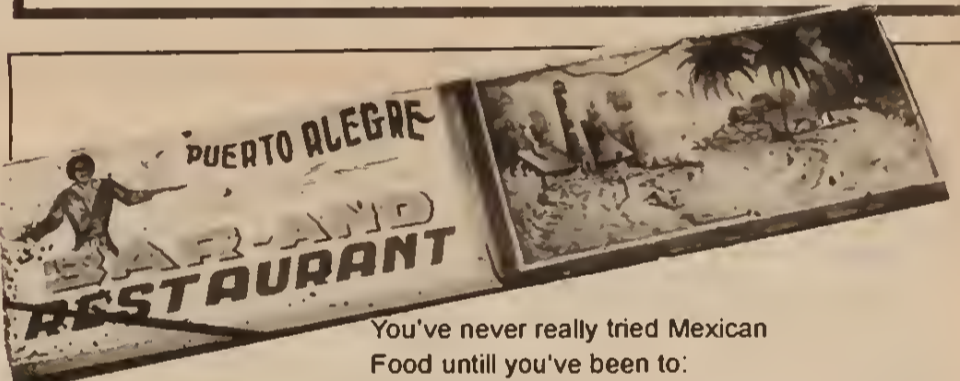
## Tired of working for others?

Why not join our rapidly expanding international telecommunications company?

Will train motivated individuals, excellent compensation possible

Not your traditional sales venture!

ITI, International Teamwork, Inc. For more info, call 648-6865



You've never really tried Mexican Food until you've been to:

## PUERTO ALEGRE RESTAURANT NO. 1

NOW SERVING THE BEST MARGARITAS IN THE BAY AREA

546 VALENCIA 255-8201



Their House



Our House

Good Crêpes Good People



415-25-CRÊPE

3708 76th Street San Francisco

Come On In!





Hey, baby it's the last Carnaval of the Millennium.

## Carnaval spirit lives at MCC

By Monica Conrady

Stroll down Mission Street between 24th and 25th Streets these days and you will see plastered on the front of the venerable Mission Cultural Center, flyers announcing participation in Carnaval '99.

Having won several awards last year, MCC is busy gearing up to wow the crowds (and the judges) again this year. Having a contingent in the Grand Parade is a lot of work. Float building, costume making and rehearsals all take a great deal of team effort. But then, one of the wonderful things about Carnaval San Francisco is the way it brings people together.

"Preparing for Carnaval really creates a sense of unity and solidarity," says Jennie Rodriguez, the Center's executive director, "Everybody gets together and gets enthused. All the different departments are pulled in - video, photography, textiles, graphics." The theme this year is *El Sueño del Jaguar* (The Jaguar's Dream).

The Carnaval Committee chose the image of the jaguar, partly because it is the image associated with the Center (their logo sports a jaguar) but also because the jaguar represents protection and strength - qualities the Center offers to the youth it serves. The Center is a safe, fun place for

young people to congregate, socialize, learn valuable skills and expand their creative horizons.

The contingent will be comprised of a large float complete with a jaguar, a Mayan temple and a group of local musicians led by Quique Davila. Along the parade route, around 70 children and adult dancers will perform Salsa and *Bomba y Plena*, a Puerto Rican folkloric dance.

Ruben Aponte is the choreographer for both dance sections. He teaches free classes and holds rehearsals for Salsa on Wednesdays from 4:30 to 6pm, and Saturdays, 3 to 4:30pm. His *Bomba y Plena* class meets on Fridays from 6:30 to 8pm. Anyone who's seen Ruben in action knows there'll be some truly sizzling dance moves on Mission Street this year.

Float construction has begun and will continue through May until the Big Day. Ricardo Rodriguez, the float designer, is in charge of construction. All are welcomed - young and old - to join the MCC's Carnaval contingent. Besides dancers, there is a need for float decorators, costume makers, monitors, helpers and more. Carnaval meetings are held every Saturday at noon. Why not stop by and join in the fun?

The Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts is located at 2868 Mission Street. For more information call (415) 821-1155.

## Carnaval Continued from Page 1

The festivities begin at 10am on Sunday, May 30, which happens to be Memorial Day weekend. The Grand Carnaval Parade, with its 32 contingents of gorgeously costumed dancers, electrifying drummers, imaginative floats, roller skaters, stilt-walkers and scores of school children will wend its way through the heart of the Mission. From 24th and Bryant Streets, the parade route runs west along 24th, makes a right-turn onto Mission, moves north along Mission to 14th Street, takes another right and proceeds to Harrison.

There will be a curb-side festival on Harrison Street, between 16th and 22nd Streets from 11am to 6pm. Booths selling a tempting spread of ethnic foods and drink, colorful crafts, Carnaval souvenirs and more will be there. Continuous live entertainment will heat up the area throughout the day. Two stages, one at each end of the festival block, will feature a dazzling array of dance and music performances, including headliner Miles Pena y Su Orquesta.

It seems that 1999 is the year for anniversaries. Besides Carnaval SF, Escola Nova de Samba, the City's oldest samba school, has also been going strong for 15 years. Foga Na Roupa is celebrating their 10-year anniversary with a continuous round of dances parties. The Mission Neighborhood Center is celebrating 40 years in business and 20 years participating in Carnaval. Whew!

The major Carnivals of the world all have a distinct character - in Brazil it's samba, in Trinidad it's calypso. Brooklyn, London and Toronto all have a strong Caribbean flavor. What's so wonderful about Carnaval SF is that it has a little bit of everything - a real multicultural mix.

Grand Marshall Tom Ammiano, President of the Board of Supervisors, will be on the main float. Riding on the royal

float in all their glory will be this year's King and Queen of Carnaval, Carlos Silva and Sorcidia 'Sorci' Harris.

Traditionally, Carnaval enthusiasts like to arrive early to see the performers and floats line up on Bryant Street. The atmosphere is electric as the baterias warm up and the dancers practice their moves and put the finishing touches to their costumes. A definite photo opportunity.

There are a couple of options available for those who prefer to watch the parade in comfort. Grandstand seating is available along the parade route for \$20. Tickets may be purchased from all BASS outlets, Ritmo Latino on Mission Street and Discolandia on 24th Street. For more information call (415) 207-7747. Dance Mission has a birds' eye view of the parade from their 2nd floor studio at the corner of Mission and 24th Streets. Tickets are \$20 per person. Children accompanied by an adult get in free and refreshments are included, however space is limited. For more information call (415) 826-4441.

To kick off all this excitement there will be a Carnaval ball on Saturday night, May 29, at Roccapulco, 3140 Mission Street. The hot local group, Avance, will headline. Further details were not available at press time. For ticket information call (415) 648-6611. Proceeds from the ball and

the sale of grandstand seating will benefit Mission Neighborhood Center programs.

And, finally, while you're still in Carnaval mode, join dedicated Carnaval celebrants and head over to Oakland Monday, May 31, for the Carijama Festival held in Mosswood Park. It's laid-back, mellow, a lot of fun and well worth the trek over.

Happy Carnaval, everyone!

## HARRINGTON BROS.

Furnishings  
Antiques  
Moving



599 VALENCIA (AT 17TH)  
(415) 861-7300

We Buy & Sell Everything  
for Home & Office  
Old, Like New & Antique



10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday thru Saturday  
Major Credit Cards Accepted



OPEN  
to the  
PUBLIC





MON-SAT  
9AM-6PM

WHEAT GRASS JUICE  
1785 15TH ST. AT GUERRERO 864-3001

VISIT EVA'S URBAN FARM FOR:  
The **SHOT** and the **CHASER**  
(Farm fresh WHEAT GRASS JUICE & free REJUVELAC)  
Plus we sell flats of WHEAT GRASS

Join us for **HEALTHY HAPPY HOUR 1/2 PRICE!!**  
EVERY MON-WED & FRI 4PM-6PM

**WHEAT GRASS JUICE**  
**AND FREE REJUVELAC**

SINGLE	DOUBLE	TRIPLE
		 
2 OZ \$1.00	3 OZ \$1.50	6 OZ \$2.50

www.citysearch.com/sfo/wheatgrass  
www.wheatgrassmessenger.com

# CARNAVAL: ROOTS

By Richard Reineccius

Picture several hip people sitting around a kitchen table on 22nd Street in the Mission in the late 1970's, cups of coffee and cigarettes in hand, noticing the days are growing shorter, discussing the history of rituals developed to reverse the process.

"The more we talked, we came to realize that every year some group of people is chosen to call back the sun," mused mask-maker/costumer Pam Minor, as she recalled the event that led to the first San Francisco Carnival a few months later. "And because we had spontaneously begun to concern ourselves with it, that year it was our responsibility. If we didn't do it, the sun that year might not come back!"

They got a permit to play music outdoors and do a sidewalk parade in the Dolores Park area, reciting poems, dancing, and using homemade instruments and costumes to draw crowds at several "stations of the sun" that had been pre-selected. One storyteller was dressed as a guerrilla. The policemen assigned to the event thought it was so much fun, they allowed the little parade to go around twice. More people tagged along, and the sun came back.

At the celebration, Minor met dancer Adela Chu who was training more than a hundred students here and in Oakland to dance the Samba and somehow, hold a Carnival parade in San Francisco. Chu had staged some small outdoor Carnival-type festivals, including one at Aquatic Park in 1978.

Both groups discovered the similarities between what they were doing and talked about the spirit behind the Carnival celebrations in other cities, from Rio and New Orleans to Harlem. They chose to hold a Carnival parade on the sidewalk circling Precita Park, here in the Mission, at the traditional wintertime in early 1979. With a lot of footwork by Minor, Verena Mostyn and friends in talking to the neighbors, the permit was granted with no objections. Carol Deutsch-Wiley and Marcus Gordon, who were running the Precita Neighborhood Center, opened their doors to dancers and musicians. Gordon, a master Afro-Cuban drummer, put together one group of musicians, and others who heard about it came running to join the parade.

The group had decided that everybody in the parade, including all musicians, had to be costumed, so Minor designed a quick-sew outfit they could put together with no help. The Neighborhood Arts

Program's costume bank became Costume Central from that year on. Artist Nancy Hom designed the first of her many Carnival posters, Sir Lawrence became a self-appointed marshal of the parade, and Lou Dematteis documented the event.

"That first Carnival," Adela Chu was to comment later, "had triple rainbows surrounding it!" As they circled Precita Park three times, the crowd swelled to well over a thousand and traffic was stopped short.

From the feeling that such an event could work magic in the Mission every year, a planning committee quickly formed to make it bigger. But, while the Precita neighbors wanted it back, the Recreation and Parks Department said the small park couldn't handle a larger crowd.

So in 1980, a longer parade down Mission Street led to a full day of music and dance in Dolores Park, drawing many thousands. Marcus Gordon remembers with a smile: "The permit people gave us only the north-bound lanes of Mission, not believing we'd really draw a crowd. But all the cars stopped to watch the parade, so the traffic was a mess." The SFPD had assigned only two cops to the parade, so, without a request, the low riders took over traffic and crowd control, and handled it with perfection, according to both Gordon and Minor.

But once was enough in Dolores Park, too, for the Rec and Park people. "We'd hoped for 5,000 people, and 15,000 showed up," said Gordon. The following year, the parade followed Mission to the Civic Center, where for the next three years, the Carnival celebration brought 50 to 75 thousand people, and the event was moved to June.

Burnout and permit conflicts left the City with no Carnival in 1984, before the present sponsor, the Mission Economic Cultural Association (MECA), took it over. After one more year of centering the stages in front of City Hall, and two years on 24th Street, they were moved to the present site, Harrison Street from 16th to 22nd. Crowds have ranged from a quarter to half a million since 1987. The parade, ever bigger and more colorful, now dances its way through the heart of the Mission down 24th and Mission Streets.

To Gordon, the one originator still working on Carnival (and artistic director of MECA for several years), the future is even brighter. He proudly points to the fact that there are now so many samba schools participating. "But we also bring in other cultures," he says, "and we want more. Anybody who can come up with things that are colorful and big, we want them in the parade."



## Mission Records and CDs



Now at our fabulous new location  
2263 Mission Street (Btwn. 18th & 19th)  
SF  
(415) 285-1550

- Punk
- Rock
- Rap
- Latin
- Country
- Oldies
- Jazz
- Reggae

## MECA NDCME

### MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND AND CARNAVAL PARTY

SUNDAY May 3, 1999

JOIN US AFTER THE PARADE FOR A SPECIAL CARNAVAL SHOW AT 5PM  
UBA LUNA AND HER DIVAS

SUNDAY BEER BUSTS  
BOTTLED BEERS  
\$1.25  
4 TO 9 PM

Mondays  
Mitzy

Tuesdays  
Marisela & Guest

Wednesdays  
Taina

Thursdays  
Las Fantásticas

Fridays  
Hot Go Go Dancers

Saturdays  
Marisela Los Vegas Show

Sundays  
Uva Luna 7pm  
Las Fantásticas 11pm

3079 SIXTEENTH STREET  
BETWEEN MISSION & VALENCIA  
861-5757

**Kilowatt**

**HAPPY HOUR**

4-7PM MONDAY-FRIDAY  
1-7PM SATURDAY & SUNDAY

**POOL TABLES**

50¢

**18 TAP BEERS**

**DARTS**

**• pinball •**

AVAILABLE FOR PRIVATE PARTIES

**3160 16th STREET • 415.861.2595**



A Waking Dream wants you!

# Carnaval's wildest ride

Those people in the giant insect costumes target the gentros

by vmiller

A Waking Dream, a fifteen year-old multicultural, multimedia and totally outrageous performance group has chosen Mondo Condo as their theme for this year's Carnaval outing. The troupe has barely weathered a year of economic cleansing pressure as the industrial area surrounding their 18th and Bryant HQ is transformed by an invasion of stealth luxury condos in the form of live/work housing. A new residential neighbor has taken umbrage at the live music benefits held in AWD's studio. The ensuing lawsuit has drained their resources and shut down the bill paying parties, leaving AWD on the front lines resistance to or at ground zero of gentrification, whichever way you choose to look at it. The conflict will be carried over symbolically into this year's AWD mobile event, a commentary on social, cultural and ecological justice (a ten-year retrospective of AWD Carnaval pyrotechnics) dancing around a 28 foot '51 International Truck affectionately known as Medusa's Head. Giant photo blowups of past parades attached to a flowing sheet will swirl around Medusa's Head while a giant Wille Brown puppet repeatedly pushes a pic in his own face. "There will be condo monsters, gentro bogeymen and demons of corporate greed," said AWD's Maximum Merrymaker and one nombre hombre, Lichen. Also featured will be a tribute to Julia Butterfly, America's most enduring and endearing tree sitter. Earth Firsters will deliver life mask material to the arboreal residing Eco-warrior woman that will be rushed back to San Francisco and used to make a lifelike Julia B. Effigy. This will be perched in a tree that has butterflies (made by young AWD at the Mission Boys and Girls Club) for leaves.

This is the Lichen vision for the dawning of the new millennium and perhaps the twilight for free spirits in the rapidly yuppifying Mission. "We're showing how gentrification acts toward culture: either by trying to silence you or crushing and grinding you up in the belly of the monster," Lichen declared.

Previous AWD Carnaval pieces such as, "Corporate Cannibals" (1992), "Consumer Slaves" (1993) and "Uncivilized Nation" (1995) have all had a (pie) in your face political statement to them. A fact that has led to some dissension in the AWD ranks, 'People say 'Oh can't we just be like other Carnaval groups, wearing beautiful sequined costumes.' But I won't change the concept just to be flowery and nice," said Lichen.

The very forces of nature he was attempting to venerate thwarted at least one Lichen vision. In 1996 the group made preparations to do "The Chia Manifesto." AWD sewed burlap sacks together, attached them to a huge wooden frame and sprinkled barley and wheat seeds onto the burlap. The whole thing was dragged into the courtyard of an abandoned factory, watered down and the barley and wheat began to grow into what was hoped would be Carnaval costumes. Of course, the local avian population saw this strictly as buffet. "Those fucking birds," Lichen said getting a real Tippi Hedron look in his eyes, "nothing would drive them away. We had to thatch ourselves with astro-turf and become Syn-chia-thetic."

Lichen, like other Carnaval participants, has views of what Carnaval should be that are at variance with the more conservative ideas of the events producers: the Mission Economic and Cultural Association. "They're really nice people but I found years ago MECCA was going towards a corporate look... Last year because of complaints we all [Carnaval groups] got a letter saying if you've been in the parade for 3 years or more you could get \$500, less than 3 years \$250 - but you had to put the corporate logo of the funding organization on your vehicle." Lichen tore up the letter, finding the idea of "Seely Posture-Pedic presents A Waking Dream" to be nightmarish. He also thinks the event lacks the community involvement that is its hallmark in other countries. Everybody works really hard for this parade and then you're in the parade - it ends and that's it. You have this street fair that doesn't have the Carnaval bands playing, it has these other bands playing. The street fair is basically boring. It doesn't feel like a Carnaval street fair at all." Lichen wants to see a section of several square blocks off Mission Street designated as a Carnaval area where groups that were in the parade could arrive and play afterwards. "Carnaval here tends to be more like a parade than a celebration that's participatory," said Lichen voicing a widely held opinion about the Mission's mega-event.

Since A Waking Dream faces an uncertain future here in the neighborhood, they're hoping that if this is the their last year, to go out with a bang. They would like to put together a contingent of two to three hundred people. To this end AWD has formed an alliance with its Bryant Street neighbor Cell and is putting out a calling-all-cadre alert to anyone who wants to don a costume and kick some gentro butt. Call them a call at (415) 642-5757.

Mention this ad for your

**Neighborhood Discount!!**

When friends & family come to town, treat them to the elegance they deserve.



THE ANDORA INN IS A FULLY RESTORED VICTORIAN MANOR FIRST BUILT IN 1875, located in the heart of San Francisco's richly international Mission District, known as one of the most exciting and colorful neighborhoods in the City, with wonderful art galleries, murals, bookstores/cafes and exciting new restaurants, like the Elysium Cafe, located on the first floor of the Andora Inn.

AMONG THE AMENITIES YOU WILL FIND AT THE INN:

- Expanded Continental Breakfast
- Five Star Serta Mattresses
- Color TV with Remote & VCR (Complimentary Video Selection)
- AM/FM Clock Radios
- Free Local Calls
- Pleasant Garden Sun Deck
- Grand Library & Tranquil Ambiance

Tours are Available by Appointment  
Please phone:  
(415) 282-0337 or 1 (800) 967-9219  
Our Fax is:  
(415) 282-2608  
Send E-Mail to:  
AndoraSF@aol.com

**RATES ARE AS FOLLOWS:**  
EUROPEAN SHARED BATH \*\$69 TO \$99  
DELUXE ROOMS & SUITES \*\$99 TO \$199  
(Add 14% hotel tax)  
\* DISCOUNTED RATES FOR EXTENDED STAYS  
All rates are per night upon availability and subject to change without notice



The Andora Inn is located on a main transit and B.A.R.T. line.

**2434 Mission Street**  
Between 20th & 21st Streets, Directly Across from PacBell

If you are starting or expanding a business, or are interested in maintaining a healthy neighborhood, please give us a call!  
Our services are free to small businesses and the community.

**MEDA**

**Business Services**

Business Planning & Start-Up  
Access to Capital  
Licensing & Permit Expediting

**Community Development**

Mission Corridor Revitalization  
Dolores Park Improvements  
Neighborhood Advocacy

**Mission Economic Development Association**

2601 Mission St., 9th Floor  
(415) 282-3334 phone





**PICARO**  
**Toos**

Café / Restaurant  
FOOD & FANTASY OF SPAIN  
Home of S(H)ANGRI(L)A

Monday-Thursday: 5:30-10:30 pm Friday & Saturday: 6-12 midnight

**3120 -16th Street**  
**431-4089**



**ESPERPENTO**  
**Toos**

Among the few, the only Authentic Spanish restaurant!

Monday-Thursday: 11-3 pm, 5-10 pm  
Friday: 11-3 pm, 5-11 pm Saturday: 11-11 pm Sunday: 3-10 pm

**3292 -22nd Street**  
**282-8867**

# Round World Music Review



**Robert Leaver**



## It's Carnival Time

Carnaval has its varied histories and traditions. In the Caribbean and Brazil, the most noted carnival cultures celebrate carnaval in February just before lent and corresponds to a time that is perfect to cut loose before the somber denial of the Christian lent period which leads up to Easter. In the United States it is New Orleans, of course, that is famous for its "Mardi Gras." Historically this was the one time of the year that slaves were given some latitude with their dress and behavior. The tradition of parading with pomp and arrogance as the European colonialists did was easily imitated and readily mocked in what became the perfect stage for theatrical satire. At various times in the past, especially in the early part of this century, carnivals in Brazil and the Caribbean were canceled because the political leaders felt especially vulnerable to criticism and feared popular uprising.

On the Cuban front: a new label, Havana Caliente/Atlantic, has been launched featuring two CD's of veteran artists. Adalberto Alvarez achieved fame in Cuba in the seventies and eighties as a composer/arranger and leader of *Son 14*. In recent years he has been a steady and popular presence as *Adalberto Alvarez y Su Son*. His recent recordings lacked the energy of his bands' live performances.

The new release, *Jugando con Candela* (Playing with Fire) is certainly his best recording in years. His orchestra bases their sound on the classic Cuban son featuring two trumpets, two trombones and a dynamic rhythm section. The songs feature lush chorus vocals and they push the tempo a bit faster, especially on the remake of his recent hit *A bailar el toca toca*. Guest artists include Quinteto Cicno Pa' Ti who play *guajiro* (country) style and the top Cuban rappers, SBS. With a nod to the funky "timba" sound of contemporary Cuban music, and the classic salsa sound of the seventies, and a hint of reggae and rap, Adalberto has put together his most accessible sound to date.

Musical traditions of carnaval vary from culture to culture. Each has distinct instruments and rhythms but they all are based on group participation and heavy on drumming and percussion. In Brazil, the large *sordo* drums, hand drums and *cuica* are used. In Cuba, its the long conga drums and "*trompeta China*;" in New Orleans you've got to have a brass section and tam-bourne; in Trinidad the steel drum is its' unique sound and in Haiti its' drums and a long hollow tube called a "vaccine"

Aficionados of the classic Cuban "son" will love the *Havana Caliente* release by Barbarito Torres, Cuban guitarist and laud (Spanish 18 stringed lute adapted to Cuban music) player featured on the Buena Vista Social Club record. There is a nice selection of traditional songs played on acoustic instruments- guitars, contrabass, percussion, piano, and trumpet. The sublime veteran vocals of such greats as Ibrahim Ferrer, Pio Leyva, Omara Portuondo, and the full chorus make a strong impression. Again, another well produced recording.


Here in San Francisco we have one of the most diverse carnivals in the world. You will find Brazilian, Andean, Afro-Cuban, Haitian, African, and Soca traditions represented along with San Francisco's unique freak contingents. In addition to the spectacular parade, the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend, is a weekend street fair on Harrison Street with live music.

Coming to the *Elbo Room* (647 Valencia) Thursdays in May:

- May 6 - Asabache with Ray & Manny Martinez, hot salsa!
- May 13 - pure Cuban music from Ritmo y Armonia
- May 20 - the hot Cuban salsa of Jesus Diaz & QBA

For the most up to date  
Carnaval information  
from around the world  
check out:  
[www.carnaval.com](http://www.carnaval.com)

All shows begin at 10pm and as always, DJ BabaLoup will facilitate para bailar y gozar (for your dancing pleasure).



**EXPOSED**  
photographic services

Custom Black & White Photofinishing

425 SOUTH VAN NESS SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103  
(415) 487- 9996 FAX (415) 487- 9997

### Neighborhood Self-Reliance Loan Program

Bank of Canton of California is now offering a special program that may meet your special financial needs. Our *Neighborhood Self-Reliance Loan Program* can help you get a loan faster than you think! Our program is designed to offer loans which are more affordable, especially for families with limited annual household income and for small businesses with limited capital.


**FEATURES/BENEFITS**

<b>Purpose of Loan</b>	Education, Job Training, Personal (family emergency needs), Small Business and Purchase of Commercial Vehicle (e.g. Truck) with commercial registration
<b>Qualifications</b>	Clean Credit History, Annual Household Income of \$17,000 or less for Education, Job Training, Personal; or Initial Capital of \$30,000, or less for Small Business and Purchase of Commercial Vehicle
<b>Loan Amount</b>	Up to \$15,000 per household or per business entity
<b>Repayment</b>	Up to 84 months
<b>Interest Rate</b>	5.75% Annual Percentage Rate Fixed*

\* For example, on a loan of \$5000, with an 84-month term, monthly payment is \$72.45

Please contact Bank of Canton California Loan Representatives to find out more about this special loan program.

San Francisco/Bay Area: 415/391-8912 • 415/421-5215  
415/989-4088 • 415/681-5333



**BANK OF CANTON OF CALIFORNIA**

A Tradition of Honest Banking

Established in 1937 Member FDIC

We reserve the right to change our lending program, practices, current rate, and requirements at any time without notice.

# Caranval Temptation

by Andrea Hirsh

It was early November and the last thing on my mind was stripping off my clothes and dancing down Mission Street. The sting of the cold air was penetrating my thick, dark clothes as I clutched the buttons of my raincoat around my neck and marched towards the Chat House Café at 8th and Minna to discuss plans for this year's San Francisco Carnaval.

Last year my samba group, *MaraReggae*, danced in the parade for our third year. We were brilliant. Glittered wide rimmed hats perched on every dancer's head, their perimeters roused with any movement of the body. Hips shook furiously, as feet danced the quick, rhythmic steps. Midriff halters revealed flashes of shimmering breasts.

I had been in charge of the visuals for our group, organizing the artists who made the props, prompting dancers to decorate their sunglasses and moon masks with sequins and beads. Elaborate spreadsheets tracked our progress. I left messages on answering machines announcing decorating workshops. If costumes were incomplete, I hunted down the offenders at dance rehearsal. I hated it. I was spending my leisure time stressing about glitter and glue.

It almost made me forget the meaning of Carnaval. In the early morning hours before the parade, I scraped paint from my fingernails and lathered my body with faux tanning cream to approximate the *ban de soleil* aesthetic on my pale, freckled skin. I gussied up with gold sparkle make-up and bright orange lipstick, and propped the sun hat just so on my head. It was my futile attempt to have a good time.

I had spent the previous afternoon and evening decorating the sides of the flat bed truck that carried the musicians. The results were less than perfect. It was a last minute, jerry built physique, and I was pissed. While I threw handfuls of glitter at wet paint I wondered how other dancers and drummers were spending the eve of the big event.

The parade was no better for me. I danced with a smile plastered across my face. The dancers next to me were in a quarrel - one had been standing in front for every rehearsal, and the other was trying to steal her spot. Many of my friends, the people who had spent their time sweating over different details for the contingent, were at the back of the troupe, where I couldn't see them.

I felt lost among the 100 or so dancers. After the parade I headed straight home, avoiding the parties and celebrations that customarily flow into the evening. It was the antithesis of what Carnaval should be, and I knew it. I swore this would be my last Carnaval.

So what was I doing inside the Chat House Café with the organizers of my group in mid November?

They ordered hot drinks and I sat down to sift through my emotions amidst the swooning music and marigold walls. I listened to the enthusiasm of my dance instructor, Rhonda Stagnaro Low, and watched the glimmer in her eyes as she spoke about Carnaval.

I wanted to feel that too.

"Sit low!" Rhonda shouts as we samba across the wood floor where we practice. Bending her legs, her hips swish from side to side. While the class pumps our collective hips to the beat, she starts the swift steps of samba. Her feet move with ease and precision as her relaxed shoulders shimmy, arms swinging along. It's a sensual dance. Quick. Pulsating.

Expressive. Students imitate her pattern with an array of dexterity and individuality. "Samba is like fertility," Rhonda tells us. "Winter is the womb, the soil. Spring is the water, coming from the earth, nurturing the seeds planted that are now ready to blossom."

Rhonda and her husband Wilson Low, (generally known as "Low"), are the founders, leaders, and artistic directors of *MaraReggae*. Rhonda teaches Afro-Brazilian dance classes three days a week at Rhythm and Motion Studio on Mission Street. Low leads the *bateria*, the live percussive section of the class, the sounds that arouse our bodies to move.

While they emphasize technique, rhythm, and movement, their end goal is more spiritual: they want students to learn to let go, to relax into the beat. And Carnaval is the moment to share that spirit and abandon - celebrating the sun or the fog of spring, dancing down the street of the city, reaching out and rejoicing in our community.

It is this nuance of the adventure that I am just starting to experience after five years of Afro-Brazilian dancing. And it is this nuance that I had read in Rhonda's expressions in November.

Drum beats bounce off the walls and the high ceiling, echoing against the cathedral windows in our rehearsal space. The room is illuminated with bright spring sun-



Giving in to temptation.

shine. The air is moist as we all begin to sweat from the gyration of our hips and the shimmy of our shoulders. I swagger across the wood floor, hamming it up with my friends in the back row, my body pulsing with the beat.

I am feeling like spring: ready to emerge. I am eager to shed my winter layers and get out in the street and dance. I am rehearsing for Carnaval again, because, in the end, it was a temptation I could not resist.

energy  
vitality  
balance  
flow

**Dr. Susan L. Oyakawa**  
CHIROPRACTOR

1364 Valencia St.  
San Francisco, CA 94110

Tel: (415) 648-3327  
Fax: (415) 648-3171

**PATMAYO, MS, LAC**

Chinese  
Medicine

acupuncture  
herbal medicine  
health counseling  
a unique blend of East with west

1364 Valencia San Francisco, CA 94110  
(415) 970-1084  
patmayo@aol.com

## May is DIGITAL MISSION Month

Reconnecting the Family

<p><b>May 5th, Wednesday 5pm-10pm</b> <b>The 4th Annual Cinco de Mayo Celebration: Young Latinos and Multimedia</b> Sponsored by the Committee of Latino Professionals; a volunteer group of Latino professionals committed to encouraging Latinos to graduate from college and seek professional careers. Guest speakers: George Aguilar, Digital Mission Don Marcos, Mission Hiring Hall Marlon Mendieta, Arriba Juntos Walter Johnson, SF Labor Council Gerardo Sandoval, La Raza Lawyers Marla Zamora, Municipal Attorneys Assoc The Rotunda of City Hall, North Light Court Van Ness Ave. @ McAllister</p>	<p><b>May 6th, Thursday</b> <b>MediaLink @ BAVC</b> Learn about this interactive media production program training low-income adults for the growing multimedia industry. @ BAVC, 2727 Mariposa near Bryant Sponsored by the Bay Area Video Coalition</p>	<p><b>May 7th, Friday 10am-4pm</b> <b>New Media @the Mission Campus</b> Tour the Mission Campus of CCSF and see the exciting new multimedia programs available to adults of all ages. 106 Bartlett St. @22nd Hosted by Dean Suzanne Korey.</p>	
<p><b>May 11th, Tuesday, 6-8pm</b> <b>Multimedia from the Community</b> Mission residents demonstrate their new multimedia skills in animation &amp; the Internet. @ Arriba Juntos, 1850 Mission (near 15th)</p>	<p><b>May 13th, Thursday, 5:30-8:00pm</b> <b>Bridging the Digital Divide</b> OpNet's first public graduation / celebration event. The event will acknowledge more than 60 graduates of the OpNet training and Internship program. Special guests include: Mistress of Ceremonies Tiffany Shlain, Davey D, KMEL Radio Personality, E. David Ellington, CEO, NetNoir, Inc. Hon. Leslie Katz, Marleen McDaniel, CEO &amp; Chairperson, Women.com, Norm Meyrowitz, President, Macromedia @ 600 Townsend Street (hosted by Macromedia) Please RSVP by calling (415) 882-1555 ext. 6 or online @ www.opnet.sf.org.</p>	<p><b>May 14th, Friday</b> <b>BAVC &amp; MediaLink</b> Tour a state-of-the-art media arts facility and view BAVC's MediaLink program, an interactive new media production training low income adults for the growing multimedia industry. @ BAVC, 2727 Mariposa</p>	<p><b>May 18th, Tuesday, 10-2pm</b> <b>craig's list crash pad</b> Craig Newmark, founder of craig's list, shows you how one person with a computer can make a difference. 1010 Cole @Parnassus Hosted by Craig Newmark</p>
<p><b>May 19th, Wed, 9:30-11:30am &amp; 4-6pm</b> <b>CAMINOS</b> Visit a new computer training facility helping immigrants and mothers learn needed skills. @1470 Valencia Street</p>	<p><b>May 25th, Tuesday 10am-1pm</b> <b>Multimedia Employment in the 21st Century.</b> Learn about the kinds of skills multimedia companies are seeking. Guest speakers: Thyralee Thai, Stacey Goodman. 3042 16th St. (Near Mission) Sponsored by the Mission Hiring Hall</p>	<p><b>DIGITAL MISSION MONTH</b> The public is invited to browse various multimedia/computer training sites &amp; events, located in and around the Mission District, which help Families gain the skills and knowledge needed to become part of the Information superhighway. ALL Events are FREE and OPEN to the Public.</p>	

For More Information, call 865-2105 ext. 106

Connecting  
Ladies Try and  
Community

**HOURS**  
Weekdays 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Saturday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Closed Sunday

"A cozy Italian oasis"  
New Mission News

"Best organic Italian"  
SF Weekly

"Best new Italian cafe"  
Bay Guardian



*cafe Abo*

3369 mission street (directly across from Safeway at 30th)

**MAKE YOUR Spring Cleaning "Environmentally Friendly" this year.**

Many leftover cleaning products in your house are considered hazardous waste. Here are some tips to make your home CLEAN and GREEN:

- Buy environmentally safe products.\*
- Buy only the amount you need.
- To properly dispose of leftover cleaners that cannot be reused, take them to San Francisco's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility at 501 Tunnel Ave (Open Thurs.-Sat., 8am-4pm).

**Hazardous Waste Management**  
www.sfhazwaste.org  
554-4333

\* ORDER your free "Clean It!" Guide for Safer House-Cleaning Methods that Really Work by calling 554-4333. \$99

**For Additional Information Call the San Francisco Hazardous Waste Management Program at 554-4333.**



*Blondies Bar* & NO GRILL



**A Swank Neighborhood Bar in the Heart of San Francisco's New Bohemia**

**540 Valencia Street** (Between 16th & 17th)  
Open 2 to 2 • Seven Days a Week ..... **864-2419**

**DR. M.S. PUREWAL**  
OPTOMETRIST



Years of Professional Experience  
Eye Examination  
All Types of Contact Lenses • Large Selection of Frames  
Se Habla Español  
Insurance & Medical Accepted

**3130 24th Street**  
SAN FRANCISCO  
**648-2777**



**MIKE'S LIQUORS**  
2499 MISSION @ 21ST  
550-0816

**Open Every Day 9am to 2am**



Juana Alicia

**ACT YOURSELF!**



**Acting for Beginners**

- Learn the basics of acting in a safe & supportive environment
- Build self-esteem, confidence & the ability to speak in public

**Improvisation Games**

- Regain the sense of play & spontaneity you lost as a kid
- Free your body, lose your inhibitions & express your true nature

Classes in Noe Valley & Fort Mason

**Call ACT 1 @ 415-824-ACT1**

**GRAPHIC DESIGN**  
BILINGUAL EDITORIAL SERVICES  
TRANSLATIONS for PUBLICATION

**Azán**  
GRAPHICS

Special Rates for Non-Profits

**415-824-7421**

SPANISH/ENGLISH TYPESETTING • AD DESIGN • LOGOS • BUSINESS CARDS • NEWSLETTERS  
MENUS • FLYERS • BROCHURES • INVITATIONS • COMPUTER GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATIONS  
ACADEMIC RESEARCH ASSISTANCE • PROOFREADING • BILINGUAL INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPTIONS

# In the picture for 14 years

By vmiller

Operating a small business is a tricky thing; many come and go quickly like Mayflowers. Some go the distance and become community institutions. When Servio Gomez first opened Back to the Picture in May of 1985, it looked like a May flower scenario. Working seven days a week from a cramped location just a few doors down from his current, roomy Valencia Street location, Gomez struggled with the worrisome responsibilities of a newly opened sole proprietorship. Gomez, driven from his native El Salvador by what was building up to be one of Central America's nastier interecine struggles, had been in the country less than seven years, most of it spent learning the framing trade in a family-run operation in Los Angeles.

When the store was in its first year Gomez workaholic ways lead to a breakup with his girlfriend, making life all the more difficult. Fortunately, at a San Jose gathering of the Gomez Diaspora, he met Martha, who unfortunately was residing in Texas. After daily phone conversations for several months (but only about a half dozen actual dates), they married and survived Valencia Street's lean years in the 80's.

Today Martha and Servio are San Francisco homeowners with two daughters Monica (8) and Saira (7). Servio appears more relaxed now that he has three employees to help him out in the booming picture framing concern that is growing by 20% a year.

Not only is Back to the Picture now equipped with a state-of-the-art computerized matting machine, plans to reopen the on again off again Latin America Gallery in the a partitioned off part of the store, are well under way.

This will be the third retail business/gallery combination in a one-block radius, joining Art Beat on 21st Street, Encantada on Valencia and Ruby's on 20th. The Latin American Gallery however will be offering high-end art such as signed prints by Chagal, Tamayo and Goya selling in the \$10,000 to \$20,000 range. Over the years the gallery has Brigadoon-like emerged from the chaos of inventory, tools and bicycles in the back room to host some elegant wine and cheesers, reverting to proletarian usage when Gomez' curatorial energies were required in retailing. But Gomez promises the Latin American Gallery shall rise again and stay arisen this time.

Back to the Picture will, of course, still continue to offer competitive prices and quality workmanship for its customers, the vast majority of whom are from the immediate neighborhood. Turnaround time on all jobs big or small will still be five working days or, for a framing emergency (whatever that may be), within 24 hours. It's still a real community business but B to the P has also gained some prestigious clients such as Wilkes Bashford and Zoetrope Studios.

Gomez says that of all the changes he's seen in the last 14 years, the Valencia Street bike lanes have been the best for the Mission. "The street is so much quieter



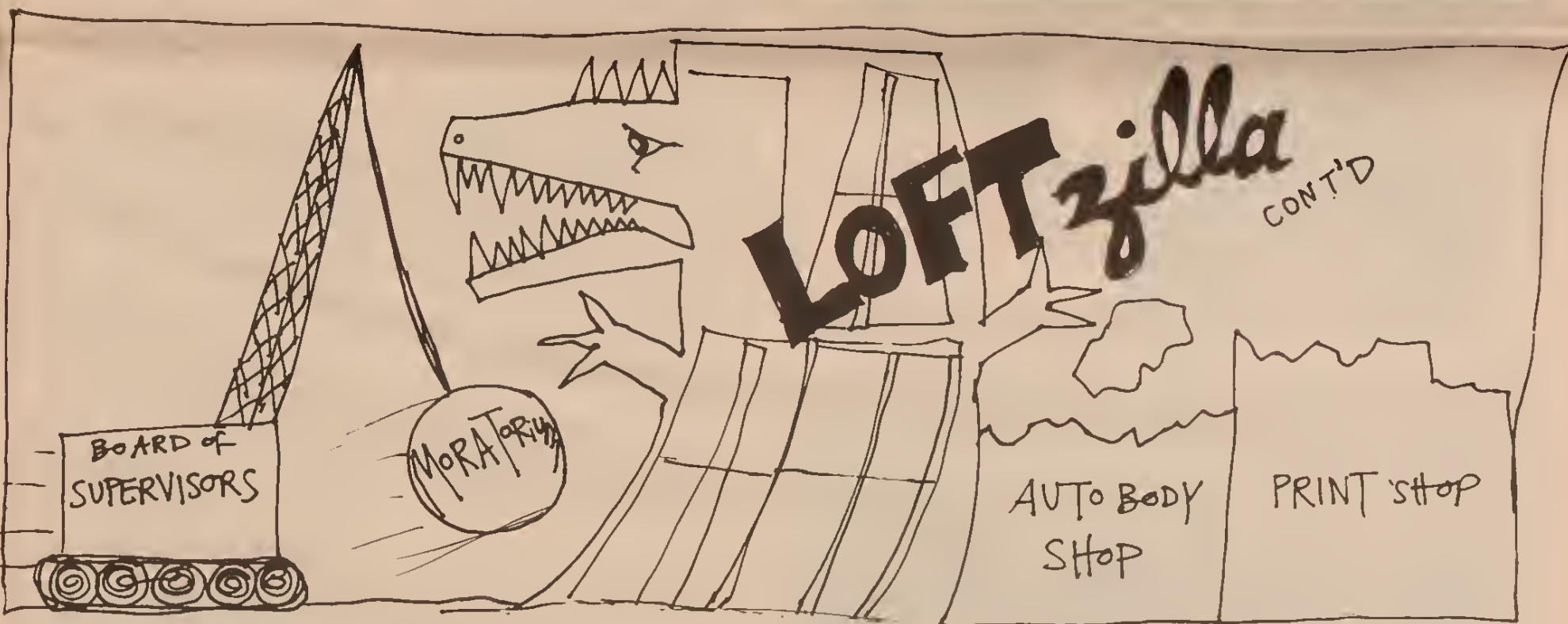
Frame dude Servio Gomez. Photo by Gary Stenger

and safer than it was before with four car lanes. The cars go a lot slower too which is good for businesses like mine. When the bike lanes are up for review, I'll fight for them", he said.

Back to the Picture is located at 934 Valencia Street @20th and open Monday to Thursday 11-7 and Friday and Saturday 10 to 6. Call 826-2321

## \$ DARE \$

to EMPOWER YOURSELF and the COMMUNITY  
NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY! WILL TRAIN!  
FREE PRESENTATION Wednesdays @ 7pm  
@Muddy Waters Coffeehouse @ 521 Valencia, S.F.  
415-648-6865



## LOFT-FREE ZONE: A GOOD START, BUT...

The Planning Commission has agreed to ban phony "artists' live-work" lofts from a new Industrial Protection Zone in the Mission, SOMA, and Potrero, to stop the land rush that is displacing small businesses and artists.

## ...THE NUMBER OF LOFTS COULD STILL DOUBLE.

Knowing controls were coming, developers rushed to propose new projects totalling 1400 lofts--equal to the number already built. In a bow to builders, the Commission decreed the new rules would not apply to these "grandathered" units.

**TELL THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: WE NEED A MORATORIUM ON ALL LOFTS NOW!**

Sue Bierman: 554-6661  
Leslie Katz: 554-5335  
Mark Leno: 554-7734

Tom Ammiano: 554-5144  
Michael Yaki: 554-7901  
Mabel Teng: 554-4981

Gavin Newsom: 554-5942  
Leland Yee: 554-7752  
Alicia Becceril: 554-6488

Amos Brown: 554-7601  
Barbara Kaufman: 554-4880

# City Club

EVERY  
FRIDAY  
7 p.m.  
Botanas



COCKTAILS  
Two  
Pool Tables  
CD Player

16th & Capp St.

2950 - 16th Street, San Francisco  
(415) 626-9727 Open 7 Days 10 a.m. - 2 a.m.



Jay Siegan, founder of Solo Music Group

## Local music company is flying solo

By Lauren Rosenberg

“There is an abundance of entrepreneurial spirit in San Francisco that gets crushed by a system that makes it difficult to build a business,” says Jay Siegan, the 26 year old CEO and founder of Solo Music Group (SMG), which, from its second floor offices at 21st and Mission, handles some of the biggest bands in the Bay Area. These difficulties include “hideously expensive rents,” lack of small business resources and aggressive corporate takeovers of small music companies by the mainstream music industry with its eye on the bottom line.

Despite these obstacles, for the last 5 years Siegan has worked tirelessly and successfully to find a balance between making money and managing and developing what he considers to be unique talent. He has found what he considers to be “the very best” bands from each genre of music that he deals with, and has made their music available to the public through the production and promotion of large shows in music clubs and auditoriums.

SMG handles the booking and promotions for individual shows and US tours and provides management and career development services for local swing, ska and '70s/'80s bands. Some of the more well known San Francisco bands SMG handles are: *The New Morty Show*, *Undercover S.K.A.*, *Low Hum Satellite*, *The Cheeseballs* and *Vice Grips of Ambassadors of Swing*.

Siegan feels that the diversity of the bands he represents (in respect to musical expertise and ethnic and cultural identity) embody the real spirit of San Francisco. “Everything we work with is quirky and odd and these are things that might not work in other cities,” Siegan says. His company caters to a crowd that wants to “go out, have a good time, dance and have fun,” and he reiterates SMG’s goals; “We want to promote shows that are just fun.”

The celebratory nature of SMG productions reflect a San Francisco music community that is interested in building interpersonal relationships that are invested in the power of music to bring people together. Siegan believes “The music industry is really about relationships.” He notes that “The San Francisco music community is an extremely close knit and supportive community. Everyone works together. People involved in the business of music in San Francisco are artists themselves.”

SMG is not merely interested in packaging musical trends, but is focused on maintaining an aesthetic. Developing artistic autonomy and sustaining its integrity is consistent with its goals of providing quality music in a fun environment to its public. “These genre’s are not trendy anymore. We are trying to create a system to make these bands flourish outside of standard industry practices.” SMG utilizes the grassroots techniques of flyer distribution, word-of-mouth and web advertising to achieve these ends. “I want these bands to remain independently creative. I don’t want them to become part of the pop machine that is the record industry and the radio. There will always be an intelligent market out there and it is large enough to support this kind of endeavor.”

Siegan’s main goal is to maintain SMG’s own independence. He has turned down high figure investment offers to expand, as well as big-bucks jobs with larger music conglomerates. His tenacity concerning artistic integrity has proven to be successful. Recently, Siegan received an offer to start a record label to develop local acts. He will also be joining forces with Ralph Tashjian, former Vice President of Island, Motown, MCA, Universal, and 20th Century Fox. Together they will pioneer their own label under Beyond/BMG, a national label, and continue their efforts to bring local talent to national audiences while supplying quality music to their discerning public.



### Deborah Jo Shachnow, C.M.T.

Zen Shiatsu

Insight Bodywork • Yoga Instruction

- Certified Massage Therapist in Zen Shiatsu and Insight Bodywork – San Francisco School of Massage
- Certified Bikram Yoga Instructor – Yoga College of India

Massage Appointments 415-289-7088

presentando: Una serie de seis charlas semanales para Latinos bisexuales y gay de todas las edades

## Vivir Para Contarlo y Gozarlo:



Cada Jueves a las 7pm  
2973 16th St.

Ven y comparte tus secretos, verdades y mentiras  
Para obtener información e inscribirse contacta a Jorge al tel. 415/575-1648

Patrocinado por Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida. PCPV is a sex-positive, neighborhood-based, Latina/o Lesbian and Gay service agency.



## CASA VALENCIA

Furnished rooms for rent in the sunny Mission.  
Full time manager.  
Laundry rooms. Close to shopping and all forms of public transportation. All utilities, except telephone.  
Staff on duty 24 hours.

For more information call 552-0825.



Lanza • Redken • Nioxin • Joico • Bain de Terre • Graham Webb

## Holliday's HAIR HAIR HAIR

Corte de Cabello y Estilos • Perms  
Cuts & Styling • Color • Highlights  
Deep Conditioning Treatment



Quality  
Products and  
Excellent Service

Open 7 Days a Week for Women & Men

3166 - 22nd Street (at Mission) 821-9420





Devon Morf is one of the proprietors of Howling Bull Syndicate, the Mission's most unusual new business. Photo by Gary Stenger

## No bull, this place is a real howl

Howling Bull offers toys and punk rock from the rising sun

By vmiller

Trans-Pacific pop culture is alive and well on Valencia Street. Howling Bull Syndicate, which opened in March, is an edgy enterprise stocked primarily with Japanese pop culture toys but also offering an assortment of indigenous punk paraphernalia - with a smattering of Luche Libre (Mexican Wrestler) thrown in for good measure. "I don't know what the connection is but there is a connection," said co-owner Devon Morf. "It all seems to fit. People are intrigued."

Morf and partner Robert Coons handle the business from the US, while a third partner, Shigeru Kosugi, is based in Japan and keeps on top of the latest in Godzilla deconstructionism or Pokémon post modernism. Morf and Kosugi met when Morf was in a band touring Japan and Kosugi was doing the promotion work. The two found they had a mutual interest in contemporary collectible items and music. This eventually evolved into not just the retail toy business (The Howling Bull Syndicate) but into a CD label as well. Howling Bull America specializes in Japanese punk music and operates a CD distributorship out of the back of the toy store.

Initially, it seemed to be me that Howling Bull - kitschy kinky delight that it was, would have a hard time making a go of it as a business. Many of the action figures for sale, like *Devil Man*, are from Japanese animated programs that have yet to be seen on US television screens. Sure, I'd like to add the evil looking turtle with all the screaming human heads stuck to its shell to my collection - but anybody who bases their marketing strategy on me has to be crazy.

Then I began noticing the Pokémon phenomenon. Encountering a friend in a local cafe, I casually mentioned my purchase of a punch balloon at Howling Bull, one of their many Pokémon items. "What's the address?" she demanded, grabbing me none too gently by the lapels. "I've got my boyfriend's credit cards and my little girl wants Pokémon!"

The Pokémon animated series, aired on most stations just after school lets out, is the ultimate merchandising vehicle. There are 150 characters and, according to Morf, they morph, so there can conceivably be 300, 450, 600 different incarnations each with its own coffee cup, key chain, T-shirt, designer jeans, etc. Ken and Barbie, Star Trek and Star Wars vendors beware; Pokémon's lookin' to kick your butts.

Pokémon is Howling Bull biggest seller, and Pokémon what-nots are being bought up as reward items by elementary

school teachers as well as middle-aged collectors. Are these the beanie babies of the next millennium? If any of Howling Bull's other toys take off like this then the business should thrive.

While the boyfriend's plastic was making the ultimate sacrifice, I snatched up one of the few remaining punch balloons. Some of Howling Bull's stock is familiar kid-gear such as Spawn figures and the giant \$250 remote control Godzilla, the store's most expensive item. Some things are equivalent to items found in American pop culture such as Sumo Wrestler trading cards. Other things like the Pokémon punch balloon are unique, at least to my experience. The punch balloon starts out as what looks like a palm size tea bag, you wallop it a couple of times with your fist and then shake it thoroughly and set it down. Inside a balloon in the shape of one of the Pokémon characters (the container does not reveal which one) begins expanding until it breaks merrily through the bag. I was delighted to be the first kid on my block to have one.

I also gave *Faster, Pussy... Attack Tora Tora Tora!*, a CD sampler of Howling Bull America's bands, a listen. The Japanese Punk Sound is not that different from what it is here. Two bands that stood out were *Yellow Machinegun*, a trio of women from Osaka, whose music is accurately described in the liner notes a "bass heavy brutalization" and *Space Combine*, if only for the quintessential punk lyric "get high, feel dizzy and grow dim my sight."

*Howling Bull Syndicate is located at 826 Valencia and open Sunday to Thursday 12-8 and Friday and Saturday 12-9. Call (415) 282-0339*

### MISSION ONE HOUR PHOTO

- color develop & print in one hour- 3x5 or 4x6
  - we can print 4x6 full frame (no cropping) with borders
  - 2 day outlab b/w develop and print and slide services & overnight b/w proofsheets
  - we do enlargements to 20" x 30" on site (1-3 days)
  - instant passport and immigration photos
  - instant print to print service-enlarge & reduce
  - we are **THE** source for Carnaval S1 parade photos we take over 3000 photos every year
  - **FREE FILM** w/ developing on Sundays
- 2859 Mission St. (between 24th&25th) 648-6698  
mon-fri 10-6 10 sat 10:00-1:00 sun 11:00-5:30

**ABADÁ Capoeira**  
 Brazilian Cultural Academy  
 2376 Mission Street (at 20th) • San Francisco  
 (415) 284-6196

**why wait?**  
 ...to get in the best shape of your life?

- Classes for ages 3 to adult
- Capoeira teens train FREE!
- Afro-Brazilian Dance
- Portuguese Language
- Percussion
- Samba

1st class free with this ad

THE ONLY 100% ORGANIC PRODUCE  
IN THE MISSION

THE ONLY 100% ORGANIC JUICE BAR  
IN SAN FRANCISCO

THAT'S US!

**PLANET HEALTH**  
FOODS FOR A HEALTHIER PLANET


524 Valencia Street • SAN FRANCISCO

MON-SAT: 9:30 AM TO 9:30 PM SUN: 10 AM TO 9:30 PM

A Woman-Owned Business

## VALENCIA CYCLERY

Bicycles by

SPECIALIZED 

SCHWINN

TREK



Huge Selection of Parts, Accessories & Clothing  
 We Box Bikes for Travel  
 Expert and Fast Repairs — All Makes and Models

(Between 1st & 22nd St)

1065 & 1077 Valencia

550-6600 (Sales) 550-6601 (Repairs)

Mon-Sat 10-6, Thurs 10-7, Sun 10-4

# Library Lady



**Q:** Hey Library Lady, why are the streets of San Francisco so steep?

Bob via Internet

**A:** Well, Bob the reason is greed; real estate developers wanted neat symmetrically shaped lots that could easily be subdivided and re-sold. Streets winding around the contour of the hills would have less severe grades but would have created odd shaped, less marketable parcels.

If you have a perplexing question (or if you're simply bored) send your inquiry to Library Lady, c/o New Mission News, 777 Valencia St., San Francisco CA 94110.

## MISSION BRANCH RE-OPENING CELEBRATION

Bye, bye Bayview Building - we're back in our original digs at 300 Bartlett, between Valencia and Mission Streets! Closed since October 1997 for seismic repair and extensive remodeling, the Mission Branch Library reopens Tuesday, May 4 -and you're all invited to the grand celebration scheduled for Saturday, May 8 beginning at 11am.

Patrons now enter the Library through an attractive main entrance on Bartlett Street that features murals by renowned artist Emmanuel Montoya. The newly refurbished Children's Room has tons of materials in Spanish and English, new

computers with Internet access, and is now more securely located on the first floor. The Main Reading Room on the second floor is a spacious open area for adults and teens sporting comfortable new furniture and all new computer equipment.

All the computers have been upgraded to "point and click" types; Mission Branch is the first library in the San Francisco Public system to convert to all graphical personal computer terminals throughout the building, giving easy access to the online catalog, databases and the Internet. Besides materials in English, Chinese and Vietnamese, the Mission Branch Library has a significant Spanish language collection of 15,600 volumes of books on all subjects.

The dedication celebration on May 8 starts at 11am with a family story time and outdoor entertainment starts at 11:45. An array of cultural groups will perform, including Danza Xitlali, the St. Patrick's Irish Dancers, Jing Mo's lion dancers and Mariachis. Mayor Brown, Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano, City Librarian Regina Minudri, and others will make dedication remarks. The festivities will continue indoors with the musical duo Zun Zun, winners of the poetry contest, *Life in the Mission*, and a dedication of the artwork by Emmanuel Montoya.

For more information about the Mission Branch, please call the Library's Public Affairs office at (415) 557-4277.

# Poems of the Month

edited by **Lisa Gonzales**

## Thank You

Thank you for putting on the cuffs  
Thank you for taking me in  
**THANK YOU**  
for locking me up  
and Thank you for  
letting me sing this song in jail

I made no bail  
So I'll sit here and wait, but  
I won't hesitate  
to say thank you  
for letting me do my time  
It will be all right  
if I stay away  
tonight  
any way

Easy Calzadada

## Morning Song

I woke early one morning,  
the earth lay cool and still  
When suddenly a tiny bird  
Perched on my window sill,  
He sang a song so lovely  
So carefree and so gay,  
That slowly all my troubles  
Began to slip away.  
He sang of far off places  
Of laughter and of fun,  
It seemed his very trilling,  
brought up the morning sun.

I stirred beneath the covers  
Crept slowly out of bed,  
And gently lowered the window  
And crushed his fucking head.

Courtesy of Circle Joke @circle-joke.com

## Cabbie Poem

It's always different,  
but always the same.  
Point A to point b, stop by the dry  
cleaners on the way  
Point B to point a  
And always the same questions.  
"How long you been driving?"  
"Where you from?"  
"Do you like driving a cab?"  
"What else do you do?"  
Driving a cab  
isn't enough for them.  
There has to be more,  
and maybe there is  
But they'll never know.  
And they hate me  
with their thin lips,  
For just driving a cab  
When just a few moments ago  
they were glad to see me

Lee Valesky

### BENDIX BRAKE SERVICE...PADS & SHOES

- FREE BRAKE INSPECTION
- FREE SAFETY CHECK
- Apply special anti-squeak treatment on pads
- Repack wheel bearing

- with high temp grease
- Adjust parking brake
- Refill system with DOT 3 brake fluid
- Install new Bendix quality pad or heavy duty shoes

- Inspect master cylinder, wheel cylinder, hoses and caliper
- Brake performance road test
- Degrease drums or rotor

**Pads & Shoes GUARANTEED FOR LIFE!**

**FROM \$35.95\***

**FRONT OR REAR**

**CLUTCH SPECIAL**

Start From **\$171.95\***

**GUARANTEED**  
3 yr, 30,000 mi. on Parts 1 yr, 12,000 mi. on Labor

**TUNE-UP SERVICE**

Start From **\$35.95** 45° 6 Cyl. **\$47.95** 8 Cyl.

• Install premium quality spark plugs  
• Set timing and dwell angle  
• Adjust carburetor

• Check Distributor cap and rotor, air filter, KV filter and vital fluid levels

**1 Year or 12,000 miles guaranteed**

**TIMING BELT**

Hidden behind a cover you can't see your timing belt. If you have 60,000 miles or more on your original timing belt, you're driving on borrowed time. If your timing belt breaks, it may cause costly engine damage.

Start From **\$129.95\***

• Inspect front Oil Seals  
• Inspect Fan Belts  
• Check Ignition Timing  
• Cars & Light Trucks

6, 8 cylinders, Power Steering, Air Conditioning cost extra

**SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE SERVICE**

3,000 MILE SERVICE <b>\$15.95</b>	15,000 45,000 75,000 105,000 <b>\$99.95**</b>	30,000 60,000 90,000 120,000 <b>\$229.95**</b>
--------------------------------------	--	---

**LUBE, OIL & FILTER**

• Drain Oil & Refill Up To 5 Qts of Pentosin or Kendal (10-30 W)

**LUKE CHASSIS**

• Check Fluids as Needed • Transmission, Cooling System, Anti-Freeze, Battery, Brake Fluids • Check Air Filter, Belts & Hoses • Rotate Tires Upon Request • Safety Check

**FAST QUALITY SERVICE AT LOW, LOW PRICES!**

New State of the Art Equipment • 16 Lifts for Fast Service • We'll Beat Any Competitor's Written Price!

**DISCOUNT BRAKE & CLUTCH**

Best Brake & Clutch in Town Since 1962!

**431-3700**

740 VALENCIA ST. (Between 10th & 11th, Near BART & Muni) Mon-Fri, 7:30am-7:30pm Sat, Sun-Hrs

\*We do not pay our service writers or auto technicians commissions. Often, additional parts or labor may be needed to complete repair properly. Cost may be substantial. We perform the highest quality service at the lowest possible price. Must present each coupon when service order is written. NO EXCEPTIONS! These coupons may not be combined with any of our other offers.

You are welcome at Mission Dental Building for all phases of dentistry.

**2440 Mission St. 285-9900**

**Open Monday - Saturday 9 - 5**

Robert C. Cenicerros, D.D.S. Peter V. Rengstorff, D.D.S.  
Bryan Arant, D.D.S. Ramona L. Lauron, R.D.H.

**Low Fee PSYCHOTHERAPY**

**New College of California COMMUNITY COUNSELING CENTER**

Experienced Therapist Interns providing individual, couples and family therapy to the community.

**777 Valencia Street**  
**(415) 437-3456**

# Plastic recycling, ending the confusion

by Debby Dunn, Public Outreach Coordinator SF Recycling Program

Why can some plastics be recycled and not others? The simple answer is that today's plastic products are made from about 200 different types of plastics, and only a couple are easily recyclable.

### RECYCLE WITH THE CURBSIDE PROGRAM:

#1 plastic bottles (PET or PETE) - these include: water bottles, soda bottles, catsup bottles, etc.

#2 plastic bottles (HDPE ~ cloudy or colored plastic), milk or juice jugs and bottles, shampoo bottles, detergent bottles, some vitamin bottles, etc

Empty motor oil and pesticide #1 and #2 plastics.

Tin/steel cans (with lids), aluminum cans, foil and pie tins, glass jars and bottles (clear and colored - no need to remove labels), empty metal paint and aerosol cans.

### HELPFUL HINTS

Flatten large plastic bottles to save space in your blue bin and the recycling truck.

The base must be wider than the mouth (aka a "bottleneck"), in order for the plastic container to be recyclable.

Clear "to go" tubs (#1), and Yogurt and margarine tubs (#2) are not recyclable. However, they can be reused for arts and crafts, or storage.

Wax milk cartons are NOT recyclable.

#3 through #7 plastics are not recyclable in

San Francisco's curbside program because markets are not available to easily recycle them. To help promote markets, please call the American Plastics Council at (800) 243-5790 and tell them you want to be able to buy plastics that are easily recyclable.

If there is no alternative to a product packaged in non-recyclable plastic, and the manufacturer has an 800 number listed on the product, call and express your preference for a recyclable container.

\*\*\*

Plastic products are made from plastic resins, which are derived from petroleum in a chemical process. We now use more than 1 billion barrels of oil a year just to make plastics. The largest single use for plastic is for packaging, especially for "convenience" packaging. In fact, we now spend more for packaging our food than farmers receive in net income.

Of the 200 different types of plastics used today, most consumer products made from plastic have been consolidated into one of 6 different categories. The first six categories, #1 (PET or PETE), #2 (HDPE), #3 (PVC), #4 (LDPE), #5 (PP), and #6 (PS), are all manufactured using different processes and cannot easily be mixed together and recycled. For example, if one #3 shampoo bottle is included with a load of #1 soda bottles, it could contaminate the whole load (kind of like mixing oil and vinegar) and make it unrecyclable.

If you have article ideas that you'd like to see in coming issues, call 554-3400 or e-mail "sfrecycle@ci.sf.ca.us".

# Miracle Mile Makers

## MISSION MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION



The McMullen House located at 827 Guerrero is more than just a beautifully restored pre-earthquake Queen Anne Victorian. This 22-unit building listed on the National Register of Historic Places, also serves as one the Bay Area's finest board and care homes. Each room is unique with its own furnishings and decorations as selected by proprietors Leroy and Cathy Looper. Closed for several years after a disastrous fire, the McMullen House is once again in operation serving the needs of developmentally and emotionally disabled adults, who would otherwise be homeless. Additionally, the facility has been made available to community organizations, such as the Friends of the Mission Library, for fund raising events. The McMullen House is the perfect combination of historical preservation and community service.



Nu2U2 is a thrift store with a difference. The newly opened facility, besides being a fine addition to the Mission's second hand enterprises, trains homeless youth in business operations, giving them the job skills and experience essential to self sufficiency. Owned and operated by Youth Industries, the new store is a much larger (4,000 sq. ft) version of the successful Nu2U on Valencia Street where 40 youth have been trained in the last two and one half years. Nu2U2 has a complete department store selection of clothing, housewares, books and children's items. Merchandise comes from donations which can be picked up from your home by simply calling 1(800) 589-6884 or dropped off at the Youth Industries office at 3170 23rd St.

Nu2U2 is located at 2415 Mission Street @ 20th and open Daily 10:30am to 6:30pm

### TO JOIN MISSION MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION CALL 979-4171

Need help fixing up your home?

Can't afford the cost of repairs?



If you live in a one or two unit building and your income is within certain guidelines, you may qualify for up to \$50,000 per unit in City-sponsored loans.

## 0 - 3 % LOANS

Available through the Mayor's Office of Housing and Mission Housing Development Corporation

For more information, call Lucy Pineda at Mission Housing Development Corporation (415) 864-6432, extension 318

Se habla Español

# Mission Camera Shop

Black and White develop and print 3x5 or 4x6 with or without borders

\$12.63 24 exp., \$16.95 36 exp. one to two days

Develop Only B/W Film (35mm)

\$2.75 (No prints or proof sheet)



Check out our large selection of black/white film, darkroom supplies, used cameras and lenses, assorted camera accessories, color photofinishing.

1089 Valencia at 22nd St. 641-8396

10-5:30 M-F 11-5 Sat

San Francisco's most beautifully hand crafted bar

Cocktail Lounge



"launching you into the next millenium"

T.V.s + Pool table  
New! Jukebox!

((Everyday))  
Happy Hour 4-7:30pm  
All Beers \$2.50  
Guinness, Sierra, Bass + 12 more on tap  
Mixed Drinks \$2

Open 7 days  
4p.m. - 2a.m

((Saturday - Djs))  
Guest Celebrity Dj

((Monday/Tuesday))  
Free Pool  
(4-9pm)  
plus drink specials

((Friday))  
Soulness  
DJ Goldmyne  
spins Soul, R&B, Funk  
plus Disco 45's

((Wednesday))  
Live Bands  
Chris Chacht  
Trisha & Lenny Feinberg  
Sand Pit  
(9pm-2am)

((Thursday))  
70's Funk, Disco,  
Old School Hip Hop

((Sunday))  
Kara Stover's  
Showcase, 5pm

2730 21st Street @ Bryant  
San Francisco  
415 282.9926

**Don't be fooled by other framing stores' discount coupons!**

Fine Custom Framing & Gallery

Expert Picture Framing

That Works with

Your Art!

The Largest Selection of

Readymade Frames

in San Francisco

*Back to the Picture*

Layaway Available



**Beveled  
Mirror  
Sale**

24" x 36"

**\$39.95**



**\$39.99**

**Framing Sale**

*While You Wait  
Framing Special*

Up to 24" x 36"  
Includes frame, glass, mounting, wire & hooks.  
Metal Frames only. Monday thru Friday only.  
Limit 2 per customer. Offer Expires June 3, 1999



**934 Valencia @ 20th St.**

frames@back2picture.com

**"Still the Best Framing in San Francisco!"**

Telephone: **(415) 826-2321**

www.back2picture.com

**EXPLORE COCINA MEXICANA**

**AT OUR MEXICAN GRILLS**

**ASSORTMENT OF FRUIT DRINKS & BEER**

**17TH ST. & VALENCIA • SF**

**431-3351**

**3071 16TH ST. • SF**

**864-8840**

